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Landslide Histadrut victory for Ramon

TV polls show Ramon has almost fifty percent of vote

MICHAL YUDELMAN

HAIM Ramon will be the next secretary-general of the Histadrut if the television exit polls prove correct.

At 10 p.m. last night, the polls indicated a landslide victory for Ramon's list, giving it 49 percent of the vote, compared with 32% for Labor, 16% for the Likud, and just under 3% for the Joint Jewish-Arab List.

Ramon, in his first statement at midnight last night, said, "At the beginning, it seemed impossible to face up to and beat the Histadrut machine."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, via a television link, broke into Ramon's victory speech to congratulate him and to call for "finding a way for cooperation" between Ramon's list and the Labor Party. Rabin insisted that the Likud was the two parties' common enemy, both in terms of the Histadrut and the peace process.

Ramon, in response, said once the votes were counted, he would be looking to form a coalition with Labor, on the basis of the commitments his list had made to the voters.

Incumbent Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld, apparently the big loser, refrained from commenting on the exit poll results, saying he would wait for the final vote count.

Earlier in the evening, Rabin indicated that Labor would seek a coalition with Ramon, because it cannot afford to lose the Histadrut stronghold.

Commenting on the exit polls, which he said he believed will prove close to the real results, Rabin said, "We would not want to abandon the Histadrut to the wrong hands, hands which are not committed to our concept of the Histadrut."

He admitted that Labor had been dealt a blow "and there is no point in hiding it. Moreover, we received the blow from one who was flesh of our flesh, who left the party. We will have to study the implications and significance and draw conclusions."

Rabin pointed out that "many, many of those who voted for Ramon come from Labor's ranks, and were expressing their protest and disappointment with the prolonged hegemony of one political element or another."

He added that he was glad, however, that this protest against Labor was not translated into support for the Likud, which also suffered a bad defeat.

Asked about returning Ramon to Labor, Rabin said that "at the moment, we are not dealing with party membership. A person who doesn't accept the party's decision and who runs against the party, expels himself from the party.

"We are now dealing with who will run the Histadrut," he said. "We must also consider the peace process and our political goals, changing national priorities. And we must see to it that the Histadrut continues to follow Labor's path."

Meretz's Shulamit Aloni expressed obvious pleasure at the victory.

"We did it, and Labor's nonsense did it, and especially the spirit of the times did it. Because we stand for the spirit of changing times and that's what our victory means," she said at Ramon-Meretz-Shas headquarters, where other list leaders were also intoxicated with joy.

"It's such a pleasure that we can invite Rabin to form a coalition with us, for a change, instead of the other way around, to make sure that the Histadrut remains in good hands," she added.

She assured Rabin that he has no cause for worry.

"If he is wise, it will be held to his credit that social changes are made during his term of office, in addition to the political ones. If he enters into partnership with us, this period will mark a breakthrough for the State of Israel," she said.

She said she thought coalition negotiations with Labor would begin last night.

Meretz MK Ran Cohen said that the list would agree to a coalition with Labor only "after Rabin puts his party and Histadrut leadership in order and replaces party Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli and Haberfeld. Rabin was raped by this group."

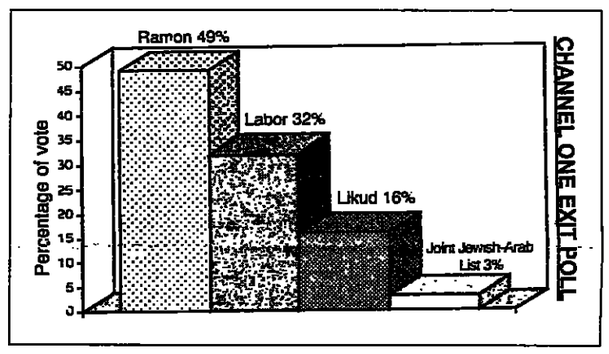
"We did not intend to harm Labor, as much as to heal the Histadrut," he added.

Zvilli, looking extremely depressed, said that "Labor must now do some heavy soul-searching. I knew the results in advance, and it's very hard indeed to take."

Asked if he intends to draw personal conclusions and resign, Zvilli said, "As Rabin said earlier, this not a personal matter. I am completely at peace with my conduct towards Ramon." Zvilli was the one who wrote Ramon and the other Labor mavericks their expulsion notices.

"While I regret the election results, I have no intention of resigning," he said. "I have never shirked responsibility in my life, but I insist that my moves here were correct. I saved the party from complete shattering and anarchy, by protecting its constitution and regulations. Especially, I protected the primary procedure, which is the most important thing."

MKs Haim Oron, Dedi Zucker and Amir Peretz celebrate after hearing the results of last night's TV exit poll. Peretz is No. 3 on Ramon list. (Israel Sun)



Police poised to break Yehud siege

RAINE MARCUS

DESPITE repeated attempts by police and psychologists to persuade Uzi Meshulam's followers in Yehud to avoid further bloodshed and surrender, no accord had been reached by late last night.

At 11 p.m. an estimated 1,200 policemen, border policemen, and Anti-Terror Squad members had gathered at the home for the aged used as a police headquarters since the beginning of the siege. Police sources predicted a solution – either peaceful or violent – by morning.

One male supporter, a 19-year-old soldier in the Golani Brigade, was killed yesterday morning by sharpshooters when he opened fire at a police helicopter. Some 60 other supporters were arrested during the day, although several were released. Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz estimated that around 25 persons, including Meshulam's wife and children, were still holed up in the house.

"We are appealing to Meshulam's supporters to surrender and hope we can find a peaceful solution," said Hefetz. "We don't want any more victims."

Hefetz refused to go into further detail about strategies to end the siege, and would only say police have exercised restraint and had taken steps to safeguard human lives, even though this meant making life difficult for local residents. Roads were still blocked by massive armored bulldozers and large trucks.

Meshulam, who is said to be not cooperating with his interrogators since he was arrested early yesterday, is to appear with his supporters for a remand hearing this morning in Petah Tikva Magistrates Court under heavy police guard.

Earlier story, Page 14

Three wounded in terrorist ambush on bus

HERB KEINON and Itim

THREE Israelis were wounded by gunshots fired at Egged bus No. 474 traveling near the village of Mazra'a a-Sharkia, north of Beit El last night.

Efraim Zoref, 36, suffered moderate wounds from two bullets in the back. Sara Dat, 70, of Shilo, suffered a light gunshot wound to the leg, and bus driver Za'atra Hamido, 32, of Jerusalem, suffered scratches. All were treated at Hadassah-University Hospital, Mt. Scopus.

Yechiel Leiter, a spokesman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said that some 30 bullets were fired on the bus from a cliff overlooking the Jerusalem-Nablus road near Mazra'a a-Sharkia, about 10 kilometers north of Beit El.

Bus No. 474 is a Jerusalem-Netanya route that services a number of settlements in Samaria.

The IDF last night searched the area for suspects, and were on the lookout for a blue BMW, which is suspected to have been used by the attackers.

In another incident last night, an Efrat resident suffered a head wound after being hit by rocks while driving on the Jerusalem-Gush Etzion road, near the Dehaishe refugee camp. He was treated in the Efrat clinic.

Peres to leave soon for Rabat

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres will soon travel to Morocco to discuss establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries, ministry sources confirmed last night.

Peres may leave next week, but his exact schedule has not been determined, they said.

Also next week, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due to arrive in the region in another attempt to advance the peace process. Christopher is scheduled to arrive here on Saturday night or Monday. (Itim)

Mandela inaugurated at gala ceremony in Pretoria

News agencies

PRETORIA – Nelson Mandela took the oath of office to become South Africa's first black president yesterday in a glorious celebration ending the agony of apartheid and marking the country's return to the world community.

From a stage overlooking the Pretoria skyline and shielded by seven tons of bulletproof glass, Mandela vowed allegiance to the nation that once tried to crush him.

"I do hereby swear to be faithful to the Republic of South Africa," Mandela said as he began a five-year term that will test the ANC's pledge to make a better life for the black majority.

Ordinary South Africans turned Mandela's solemn inauguration into an excuse for a huge party. Tens of thousands of black and white revelers massed on the green lawns below Pretoria's Union Buildings, where the ANC leader was sworn in.

"This is the beginning of a big, big party for freedom and independence," said Evelyn Mamiane, 25, as she swayed to the music.

The inauguration spawned celebrations in towns and townships across the country – from Soweto, where a youthful revolt in the late 1970s marked the beginning of the end of white rule, to the Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal.

"Free at last, free at last. We have overcome," they chanted in Soweto, where jubilant blacks staged thousands of parties.

A similar cry went up in the township of KwaMashu in the Zulu heartland, where political fighting between supporters of the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party has killed 10,000 people in 10 years.

In his inaugural speech, Mandela called apartheid "an extraordinary human disaster that lasted too, too long."

"We shall build the society in which all South Africans, both black and white, will be able to walk tall, without any fear in their hearts, assured of their inalienable right to human dignity – a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world," Mandela vowed.

Mandela, 75, completed his transformation from political prisoner to president of Africa's richest country before dozens of heads of state and heroes of the liberation struggle, as he took over from F.W. de Klerk, who dismantled the brutal apartheid system his National Party had codified four decades ago.

Nelson Mandela takes the oath of office in Pretoria yesterday, to become South Africa's first black president. (AP)

Among them was US Vice President Al Gore, who called the event "a celebration for the entire world." He was accompanied by Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Also in the audience were President Ezer Weizman, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and Cuban leader Fidel Castro. Major names in the worldwide fight against apartheid, including Archbishop Trevor Huddleston of Britain and South Africa's Nobel laureate author Nadine Gordimer, attended.

Moments before Mandela's swearing-in, de Klerk and ANC national chairman Thabo Mbeki took oaths of office as deputy presidents.

Batsheva Tsur adds:

Weizman, who was seated with his wife Reuma in the front row of the distinguished guests invited to the swearing-in ceremony, took the opportunity to meet with several world leaders.

Following the ceremony, he shook hands and exchanged greetings with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Cuban leader Fidel Castro. The president invited Castro, who has recently encouraged a warming of relations, to visit Israel, Israel Radio reported from Johannesburg.

According to the report, South Africa's new foreign minister has also expressed an interest in continuing military ties with Israel.

IDF out of Deir el-Balah

THE IDF withdrew at midnight last night from Gaza's Deir el-Balah refugee camp, handing over control of the camp to the Palestinian Police, the IDF announced.

Rabin, Labor now must dance to Ramon's tune

ANALYSIS

SARAH HONIG

WITH Haim Ramon at its helm, the Histadrut will never be the same again. But has Labor really lost the Histadrut after 73 years of unequivocal hegemony? The next few days will tell.

Even before the results were in, emissaries were sent from Labor to Ramon to put out feelers for a coalition deal.

Ramon's pals in Labor – Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin and MK Haggai Merom – were quick to call not just for a Histadrut coalition but for a speedy return of Ramon to the party.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is known to favor bringing Ramon back to the Labor fold. First he needs to strike a Histadrut coalition deal, which would be rapidly followed by a grand reconciliation. Should this occur, Labor would recapture its Histadrut stronghold, but it will be on Ramon's terms.

Ramon will be able to call the shots. He has made himself the left's most shining new political star, and a likely future candidate for prime minister.

For now, the bigger Ramon's win, the more Rabin needs to make a deal with him. The final results of yesterday's vote, may yet give Ramon an absolute majority, in which case he needs no coalition partners. If he does need a partner, he can have his pick and Labor will have to dance to his tune if its wants to retain its foothold in the Histadrut.

This will be not be an easy time for Rabin, despite Ramon's declarations of support for his leadership. Ramon may demand that he send Haim Haberfeld home. He will certainly demand passage of his national health bill, and will want to subject the Histadrut to the state comptroller's scrutiny.

Party Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli's head is on the block, and Rabin will be swamped with demands to sack him.

The biggest loser is Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, whose power base the Histadrut machine has been thus far. Haberfeld and Zvilli are his close associates.

Peres hotly opposes reinstating Ramon in the party. He cited the party rules which demand an 18-month waiting period before an expelled member can be readmitted.

But Rabin has also not come out of it well. He badly bungled the Ramon affair from the outset and betrayed Ramon, the minister closest to him, who was largely responsible for Rabin's own 1992 victory. He caved in to Histadrut pressures and did not dare stand up to Peres. At the very least he will be blamed for gross mismanagement.

As a quarrel with Peres looms, Rabin will have to display better judgment, as he attempts to bring Ramon back without splitting his party in the process. He will also have to be careful in his relations with Meretz.

Meretz, from its vantage point, dealt Labor a blow, and now stands poised to replace Labor in the Histadrut establishment. Meretz will not want Ramon to return to Labor. All this can only bode ill for Rabin's government coalition.

Moreover, the only way Rabin can expand his minority government is by patching things up with Ramon to the extent that Shas is mollified enough to finally rejoin the coalition. This is one of Rabin's highest priorities, and Ramon holds the key.

Without Labor humbling itself and going hat in hand to Ramon, none of Rabin's problems, either in the Histadrut or in the Knesset, can come close to a resolution. But in seeking his solution, Rabin will be stirring a hornet's nest in his own party.

The other apparent loser in yesterday's elections was the Likud, but this was only to be expected. Most Likud members do not belong to the Histadrut, and the protest voters on whom the Likud always relied found another high-profile ticket to support. There was no way the Likud could hold on to its 27 percent share of the Histadrut vote.

The Likud's final measure of success or failure will be whether Ramon wins an absolute majority or not. If he needs no coalition partners, then the Likud will be left out in the cold again. Its hopes of being courted by both sides, however, were felled by Labor's poor showing. The minute Labor cannot achieve a majority by any coalition combination, the Likud's bargaining power is minimized.

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Euphoric Ramon supporters celebrate triumph

ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

A WAVE of euphoria and shouts of "Unbelievable!" swept through the basement crowded with Haim Ramon's supporters as the results of the first exit polls flashed across the television screens, showing Ramon with 49% of the vote.

Although it was still unclear whether the list would cross the 50% threshold, it was clear the Ramon forces had triumphed in the bitter intra-family struggle with the forces of the Labor establishment.

The activists rejoicing together and embracing one another in the small room in Mapam Party headquarters reflected the strange bedfellows that Haim Ramon had drawn together.

Bearded Shas members rubbed shoulders with Meretz supporters with long hair and earrings, both male and female.

Najeeb Aborakia, who campaigned for Ramon in the Arab sector, strained to see the television screen. "Let me see," he cried. "I've got to see Haberfeld's face."

A companion told him: "Hey don't worry about his face. You're not going to have to look at it anymore."

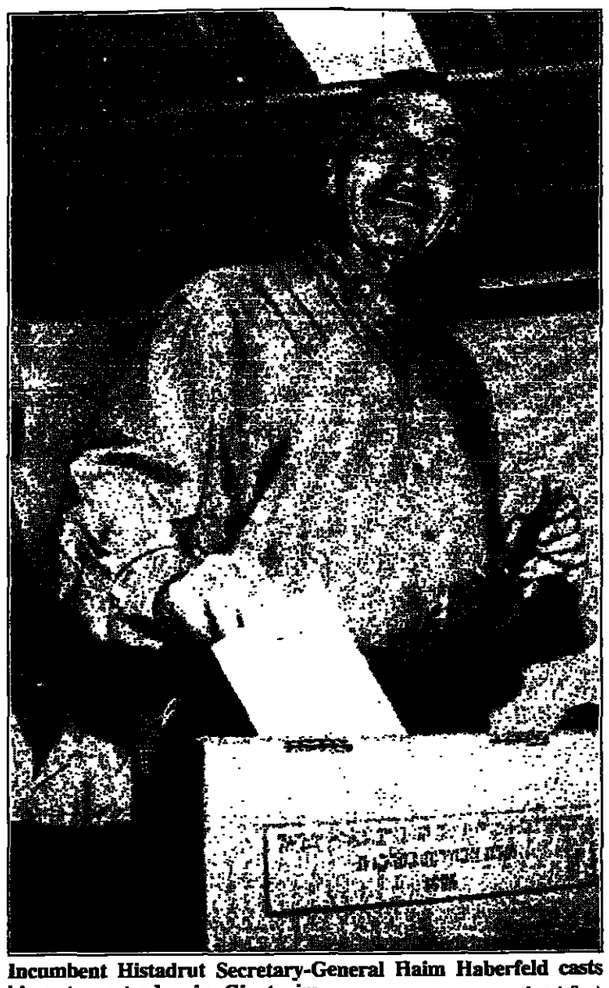
The victory was clearly sweetest for the Meretz politicians, who had rarely enjoyed an outright victory in an election.

"We accomplished this – the mistakes of the Labor party accomplished this, but most of all, the spirit of the times accomplished this. Tonight, we can say that we represent the spirit of the times," said a triumphant Shulamit Aloni.

Labor MK Amir Peretz, who was expelled from his party after challenging Haim Haberfeld in the Histadrut primaries and then joining the Ramon camp, said that last night's results "made the struggle worthwhile."

Ran Cohen of Meretz called the results a victory for "all the oppressed – Arabs, women, those of Middle Eastern descent."

The apparent victory, he said, put a "heavy weight" on his shoulders. "No longer can we just complain about oppression and discrimination," he said. "Now we are in a position to make sure that it ends."



Incumbent Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld casts his vote yesterday in Givatayim. (Israel Sun)

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The weekly meeting of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today, 1 p.m., at the YMCA, King David Street. Max Weissglas will speak on the European Community.

ARRIVALS

For the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of Tel Aviv University: From Argentina: Mr and Mrs. Fred Chaoul. From South Africa: Mr. and Mrs. Bernhard Lazarus. From the US: Mrs. Joni Brown.

Girl killed while standing on sidewalk

A six-year-old girl from Shuafat was hit by a car and killed on the Jerusalem-Ramallah road yesterday.

The accident occurred when a truck rear-ended a car, which then veered onto a sidewalk, hitting Dawlat Awad. The girl, who was severely injured, later died at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital at Ein Kerem. *Itim*

Ramon's reforms could change shape of economy

ANALYSIS

NEIL COHEN

IF Haim Ramon keeps his campaign promises, or even most of them, it will mean major changes in the Histadrut.

Ramon will attempt to push through wholesale reform of Kupat Holim Clalit, attacking its giant deficit by selling assets and cutting superfluous administrative personnel who owe their jobs to the party. And he will naturally attempt to pass his original version of the national health insurance bill, which would divert health fund members' unitary tax (*mas ahid*) payments from the Histadrut apparatus to the health fund itself.

Applying his declared liberal principles to Clalit and the Histadrut pension funds will weaken much of the labor federation's traditional power base. These same liberal principles may also lead Ramon into conflict with some of the powerful workers' groups, if he does not side with their wage demands and industrial action.

Many of his plans will require Knesset support, but if Ramon is able to ram them through, not only will the labor federation look different by the next Histadrut elections in 1998, but large parts of the Israeli economy will, too.

The dead hand of the Histadrut will be removed from large parts of the economy. For example, the shadow of Hevrat Ha'ovdim will be lifted from Bank Hapoalim and from other assets whose ownership should have long since been in private hands.

Pension and health-care reform, though perhaps initially costly and painful, should lead to a freer and more efficient economy, from which the taxpayers can only benefit.

Winning numbers

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 3, 14, 17, 31, 40 and 44, and the additional number was 49.

Election passes quietly in haredi neighborhood

HERB KEINON

IF the importance of an issue in the haredi world is judged by the coverage it receives in the haredi press, yesterday's Histadrut election should have been the focus of activity in Jerusalem's haredi neighborhoods.

But the atmosphere in Geula and the adjoining Bucharan Quarter, a Shas stronghold, gave no indication that anything dramatic was unfolding. There were no large wall posters either supporting Shas or damning them, no megaphones calling on people to vote or block others from voting. It was business as usual.

Haim Ramon's orchestration of the unlikely Shas-Meretz minuet has kept the editorial and headline writers in the haredi press busy for weeks. The lead headline in yesterday's *Yated Ne'eman, the Degel Hatora* daily that has led the castigation of Shas, read: "Rabbi Eliezer Schach: The association with the left – destruction for the community of Israel."

The only campaign literature in sight in the haredi areas, however, were a few well-trampled leaflets on the street that read: "To earn a living, Jews are forced to desecrate Shabbat. To preserve their jobs, Jews must turn the sanctified into the profane. Don't evade your responsibility, support the list with Shas representatives who are obliged to Tora and the great sages of Israel."

The polling place in a school building in the Bucharan Quarter was quiet. There were no lines of voters, no demonstrations, no heated political arguments. By 3 p.m., only 13 percent of the eligible voters in the area had voted. The sound in the halls was not of people clamoring to vote, but of girls reciting their lessons.

Yisrael Gedanyan, the official Shas observer at the polling station, said the quiet belied a surge of Shas activity on the street. He said that a fleet of 35 cars was rented by Shas to bring out the vote, and that Shas activists were phoning all Shas-affiliated Histadrut members to make sure they cast their ballots.

"Many Shas people are voting in a Histadrut election today for the first time," Gedanyan said. "Take my parents. This is the first time in 40 years they are voting."

The reason Gedanyan's parents voted, and the reason he agreed to take a day off from study to work at the polls, was because Rabbi Ovadia Yosef said to vote for Ramon's list.

Asked if it isn't a little uncomfortable working for a list that includes Meretz, Gedanyan said, "If it is good for religious Jews, I don't mind working with [Shulamit] Aloni. Rav Ovadia said it will be beneficial for the religious worker to go with this list. If he told me to jump off a bridge I would do it, so it's no big deal for me to vote for Ramon."

Gedanyan attributed the lack of election posters and propaganda in the Bucharan Quarter to Shas's recognition that there is great opposition in the haredi world to its alliance with Meretz.

"We don't want to cause any confrontations," he said. "We just want people to come quietly and vote."

Election day – a largely apathetic affair

MICHAL YUDELMAN

BY yesterday afternoon, only some 20 percent of the 1.6 million eligible voters had cast their ballots in the Histadrut elections, far less than expected after the stormy campaign.

The elections appeared to arouse little interest on the street, with the main drama of the day occurring in Yehud. Voters in the town were prevented by police from reaching the polling station, located near Uzi Meshulam's house.

The central elections committee is considering canceling or postponing the elections in Yehud, at the request of the local elections committee.

In Lod, two boxes filled with ballot notes saying "Emet – Labor led by Rabin" were found at the polling station, apparently left over from the Knesset elections. In Beersheba, campaign workers at one station reported that the their Labor ballot notes had been stolen, and new ones had to be delivered from nearby towns.

In the morning, the polling station near Tel Aviv City Hall was almost deserted, apart from three elderly people. One said she would support Ramon "because he looks like such a nice young man."

Her neighbor, who came with her, said: "This is exactly the reason why I will not vote for Ramon. He is too young to understand anything about the pensioners' needs. In the past 30 or 40 years I don't remember him doing anything for poor people or old folks."

Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld left home at 8 a.m. for a tour of Hadera, where many teenage activists had converged. After a talk with Rami Zilberstein, Labor's candidate for local labor council secretary, Haberfeld proceeded to Hod Hasharon, where he met with labor council secretary Haim Mizrahi.

Asked about the pre-election polls that had predicted a landslide victory for Ramon, Haberfeld said "there are surveys and there are feelings. I tend to trust feelings more."

Haberfeld went on to Givatayim, where he voted at the fire station. As photographers cried "Wait!" Haberfeld stopped with his hand suspended over the ballot box, saying "This is not the last time I'm voting for the Histadrut, nor is it the last time that I'm voting as secretary-general." He added he expected to get a majority of 53% in the elections.

Ramon voted in Ramat Hasharon in the morning, then traveled to Haifa, where he visited a few polling stations, most of which were nearly deserted.

Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet, who toured the polling booths at Ma'aleh Adumim together with Labor MK Emanuel Zissman, said Ramon would not be able to return to Labor.

"He who stabbed Labor in the back and then twisted the knife cannot be expected to be taken back into his party," Shetreet said.

Pension funds' actuarial deficit reaches NIS 36b.

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE pension funds' actuarial deficit is estimated to have grown to NIS 36 billion by the end of last year, but the funds' 1993 performance did not worsen their economic condition, Meir Shavit, the supervisor of capital markets and insurance, announced yesterday.

Shavit said that dealing with the funds' financial difficulties should be a major priority for the Histadrut, which controls most of the funds, the government and the public.

The Treasury is currently putting the finishing touches on a pension fund reform and recovery plan, which will enable the funds to meet their obligations to pensioners in the future. The plan has been delayed due to disagreements between the Treasury and the Histadrut on each party's share of the financing. The Treasury also held back the plan to avoid making the reform a campaign issue in the Histadrut elections.

Despite the state comptroller's recommendation last year that Hevrat Ha'ovdim compensate its pension funds for mismanaging their investments, the Treasury has not acted.

According to the Treasury spokesman, the investments were legal and approved by the government. As a result, the issue of compensation has been relegated to the Histadrut's own discretion.

Between 1970 and 1983, when inflation skyrocketed, G'mul, the investment arm of the Histadrut pension funds, lost about NIS 300 million (in 1992 prices) after buying unlinked bonds from companies controlled by Hevrat Ha'ovdim and Bank Hapoalim.

Disappointed Shamai congratulates Ramon

HERB KEINON

THE Likud's Ya'acov Shamai, who according to the exit polls received 16 percent of the vote, arrived at a subdued Metzudat Ze'ev 30 minutes after the television exit polls were broadcast.

"I'm disappointed," he told Israel Television. "I want to take the opportunity to congratulate Haim Ramon on his success. It is not an insignificant one."

Likud MK Ovadia Eli said it is obvious the party's strength in the Histadrut was weakened, but that he had no regrets about the party's decision to run Shamai for the third consecutive time.

"Shamai was a good candidate, an authentic leader of the workers," Eli said. "But there was a tide in the elections, a desire for change. This tide was evident inside Labor, which lost a lot of its strength, and this phenomenon was also evident within our party. This is a new fad in Israeli politics."

240,000 pupils begin taking 'bagrut' exams

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE *bagrut* (matriculation) exams for the current school year began yesterday, with the exam in Hebrew composition. Pupils were required to choose one of four subjects and write an essay on it.

All told, some 240,000 high school pupils will be taking this year's exams. The Education Ministry has had 430 different exams printed. Some 45 were written in Arabic and another 60 are translated into Arabic. A total of 16 exams – in chemistry, physics, and math – have been translated into Russian. In some subjects, new immigrants will be allowed to take oral exams.

The ministry said it has made special preparations to accomodate some 10,000 test-takers with learning disabilities, but the Knesset education committee this week raised serious doubts about the ministry's ability to deal with these students.

Meanwhile, the ministry released statistics concerning last year's *bagrut* exams. According to the figures, about 10 percent more pupils studied for the *bagrut* in 1993 than in 1992.

But while 56.92% passed the exams in 1992, in 1993 only 55.69% passed. The ministry said the difference is insignificant, and the similar percentages could be viewed as positive, given that high schools last year allowed more pupils to take the exams.

Campaign to encourge use of bicycle helmets

LIAT COLLINS

MORE than 1,000 bicyclists a year are seriously injured or killed in road accidents, 40 percent of them children under 14.

These are two of the figures released yesterday by the Road Safety Authority, as a part of its campaign to persuade children to wear helmets when bicycling and their parents to encourage them.

Although road safety experts estimate that up to 90% of head injuries could be prevented by wearing a helmet, only 5% of bicyclists here wear them, according to RSA spokeswoman Daniella Gonen. Most accidents occur on streets close to the victims' homes, not on main roads, she noted.

Before the campaign, two studies were carried out on schoolchildren and adults around the country. The studies show that children consider helmets unfashionable, uncomfortable and unnecessary, and are not prepared to buy them because their friends don't wear them.

The campaign aimed at children hopes to turn the helmet into an attractive, accepted fashion accessory while the campaign aimed at adults will emphasize the helmet's effectiveness.

Sewage plant breakdown causes death of fish

Thousands of fish have been killed by effluence flowing from the Migdal Ha'emek sewage treatment plant, according to a Nature Reserves Authority spokeswoman. Large quantities of raw sewage have flowed from the plant into the nearby Mizra River and from there into the Baruch Pool.

The Friedrich Ebert Foundation
deeply mourns the passing of

HAIM BAR-LEV

and extends condolences to the family.

We shall forever honor his memory
as a good friend of the Foundation,
and of the German Social Democratic Party.

Emunah of America
mourns the loss of its beloved
Honorary Vice President

IRENE ZELIKOW ע"ה

long-time leader of Emunah in the United States

Heartfelt condolences to Nat and the family.
May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

Sondra Fisch **Rosalie Reich**

The Chairman and Members of the
World-Presidium of WOJAC

deeply mourn the passing of

SHLOMO TOUSSIA-COHEN Adv.
Chairman of WOJAC's World Executive

Heartfelt condolences to his wife, Mrs. Elka Toussia-Cohen, to his son, Arie Toussia-Cohen Adv., and to the family.

Leon J. Tamman
Chairman of the World Presidium

F.I.B.I. Holding Company Ltd.

mourns the death of the
Chairman of the Board of Directors

SHLOMO TOUSSIA-COHEN Adv. ז"ל

and extends its sympathy to the family

Shaare Zedek Hospital, its board of directors, management, and staff

mourn the untimely death of
our long-time friend and supporter

STANLEY STERN

Member of the international board of directors.

We extend our sincerest condolences to his family.

With deep sorrow, we mourn the loss of our dear friend

LESLIE GOLD

Sadie and Joe Lebetkin
Letty Winter and Family
Eileen and Bernard Young and Family
Shaul Fink
Zena and Wolfie Doffman
Milly and Mark Jackson

With deep sorrow, we announce the death of

LESLIE GOLD

Beloved husband, father and grandfather

The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, May 11, at 3:30 p.m., at Herzliya Cemetery.

Shiva at 29 Hamessila, Herzliya B.

The Family

The First International Bank

The Directorate, Management and Staff
of the bank mourn the passing of

SHLOMO TOUSSIA-COHEN Adv. ז"ל

and extend condolences to the family

We regret to announce the passing of ז"ל

LEON RUDOLF ז"ל

on May 9, 1994, in London.

The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, May 11, at 10 a.m., from the Sanhedria Funeral Parlor to Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem.

Wife: **Freda**
Daughters and Sons-in-Law: **Angela and Eli Reuven**, **Marion and Michael Silman**
Sister: **Renee Warwick**, London
Grandchildren and great-grandson

Shiva until Erev Shavuot (May 15, 1994) at 33/2 Yigal Street, Ramot 02, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-862869.

Transfer of authority in Jericho awaits arrival of Palestinian Police

JON IMMANUEL and LAMIA LAHOUD

THE transfer of civil authority to the Palestinians in Jericho has been delayed until the first Palestinian police officers enter the town, both Israeli and Palestinian sources said yesterday.

"We expected to take over the civil administration today, but the Israelis insisted that the police officers should enter Jericho first," said Amin Makboul, of Nablus, a member of the liaison committee for the transfer of civilian authority in Jericho and Gaza.

"The Israelis also want to wait until Yasser Arafat appoints the 24 members of the autonomy council," he added.

Civil administration head Brig.-Gen. Gadi Zohar confirmed this at a joint press conference in Jericho with Jamil Tarifi, who heads the Palestinian team on the liaison committee.

"It makes sense that we first want to see a Palestinian authority appointed to which we can transfer the authority in Gaza and Jericho," he said. He also implied that the transfer of civilian and security authority should take place simultaneously.

"The transfer of authority will be implemented the day and the hour determined by the security coordination committee," Zohar told the press, in an army camp which is to be transferred to the Palestinian police.

Tarifi said that he understood by this that the buildings would be handed over as soon as the police arrive.

Zohar and Tarifi were greeted warmly as they toured some of 22 buildings to be handed over to the Palestinians.

The atmosphere was tense with anticipation, as many in the street were convinced that the police would begin arriving, although just as many were convinced they would not.

Soldiers in the police station overlooking the main square fired round rubber bullets in the air to prevent people from coming too close, but some youths managed to place branches on the fence.

The coordinating teams in Jericho split into three groups, touring health, licensing and tax offices, tourist sites and national parks, assessing properties, and taking inventories of equipment to handed over.

Some 800 police are expected in Jericho. More than 100 were to arrive yesterday, "but their entry has been delayed because 250 policemen from Iraq do not have Egyptian or Jordanian passports or documents," said a high-ranking Fatah leader in the territories.

He explained that according to the terms of the autonomy agreement, all police officers from outside the territories must have valid Egyptian or Jordanian documents. The policemen from Iraq only have military documents, he said. But he was confident that the security subcommittee for the deployment of the Palestinian police in Jericho would be able to solve the problem.

The policemen will move into the military base at the civil administration headquarters. They will also take over the police station in the center of Jericho.

"We have no problems with the Israelis concerning the transfer of civilian authority. They supplied us with all their data, files, and information," Tarifi said. "As soon as the police arrive, we are ready to take over."

He said the Palestinians have received orders from Tunis to let the Palestinians working in the civil administration take responsibility for running civilian affairs until department heads are appointed.

He said all Palestinians working for the civil administration will keep their jobs, but the Israeli department heads would be replaced by Palestinian appointees.

Tarifi and Zohar said that even after the transfer is completed, the liaison committee will continue to coordinate.

Until the end of this month, Israel will continue to supply all services to the Palestinians, Zohar said.

First group of Palestinian policemen arrives in Gaza

JON IMMANUEL and ALON PINKAS

THE first 120 uniformed Palestinian police entered the Gaza Strip from Egypt in buses and trucks yesterday, but were delayed on the Israeli side of the border until late last night to receive identity cards.

They were expected to move last night to their base at the former civil administration building in Deir el-Balah.

Gen. Nasser Yousef, the chief of the Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho, told a press conference on his arrival: "This is a historic day for the Palestinian people, the first step on the way to independence."

Yousef, wearing the khaki uniform and green beret of the new police force, was accompanied by Marwan Kanafani, an aide to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

He stood next to Brig.-Gen. Yom-Tov Samia, the Israeli head of the Israeli-Palestinian security coordinating committee responsible for determining the timetable for the transfer of authority. "The transfer should be as smooth as possible," Samia said.

Army sources in the Gaza Strip said yesterday that full transfer of power could only be completed when the PLO appoints the members of the Palestinian Authority's governing council.

However, the entry of the first contingent of the Gaza police clears the way to begin the transfer authority there. The PLO sources in Jericho last night said it would begin today, although the IDF this was not certain. "The situation changes from hour to hour," a military source said.

The first contingent of Gaza forces is expected to be followed swiftly by backup forces, these are still a small part of the 7,000 retrained Palestine Liberation Army troops that are to enter from abroad.

Up to 700 uniformed police are encamped across the Allenby Bridge. These are former soldiers in the Jordanian Badr Brigade and the Iraqi Aksar Brigade. Several hundred more are on their way to Gaza from Sudan, according to PLO sources in Tunis.

Meanwhile, in South Africa, Arafat blamed Israel for the apparent delay in bringing the police in. "The troops are there ... Who can ask for one-day delay to return to his homeland?" he told Israel Television's Channel One.

President Ezer Weizman talks with Cuban President Fidel Castro yesterday after the inauguration of South African President Nelson Mandela. (Reuter)

IAF bombs Jibril bases in Lebanon

ALON PINKAS and news agencies

AIR force jets yesterday attacked several strongholds of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), near Nueime, north of Sidon.

An IDF statement said the pilots reported accurate rocket hits on bases used as "training facilities and launching pads for activity against Israel," and that all planes had returned safely to base.

Lebanese police said at least two people were killed and eight wounded, including a 3-year-old girl.

According to eyewitnesses, two planes flew low over the Mediterranean, then veered east to strike bases of the PFLP-GC in the hills near Nueime. At least four rockets were fired in the first strike, and two in a second two other planes an hour later. Another rocket was fired in a third raid at 5:45 p.m., police said.

The IDF confirmed that a third strike took place late in the afternoon.

The PFLP-GC, headed by Ahmed Jibril, is one of the rejectionist front organizations. It is headquartered in Syria, but operates against Israeli and South Lebanese Army targets from north of the security zone.

Work on implementing economic pact continues despite uncertainty

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE prospect that there may be no one to take over the economic functions in Gaza and Jericho at the end of the month weighed heavily on Treasury budget director David Brodet yesterday, as government officials met to draft legislation to implement the economic accord with the Palestinians.

To ensure a smooth transition, representatives of the ministries affected by the accord met yesterday to begin drafting the bills, which will reflect required policy changes and the transfer of responsibility for various activities. The Customs Department and the Ministry of Industry and Trade were asked to draft the changes in import policy resulting from Palestinian assumption of authority over imports into the autonomous areas.

The Transportation Ministry was asked to redraft regulations relating to imported new and used cars, since the Palestinians will be allowed to set their own duties on car imports, which may differ from Israel's.

The Energy Ministry is to draft regulations and standards for imported petroleum products.

The Labor and Social Affairs Ministry will make arrangements to transfer the National Insurance Institute deductions of Palestinians working in Israel to the Palestinian social security authority.

The Agriculture Ministry is to prepare the supervisory system that will ensure the maintenance of agreed veterinary and agricultural standards.

Brodet said he expects the period following the transfer of authority to be one of "birth pangs" until the newly established Palestinian institutions are up and running.

US keeps Syria on list of terror supporters

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

DESPITE having joined the peace process, Syria has again been classified by the US as a state supporter of terrorism.

In the annual "Patterns of Global Terrorism" report, released yesterday, the State Department said that while it lacks evidence directly implicating Syrian officials in terrorism, Damascus "continues to provide support to and safe haven for several groups that engage in international terrorism."

It said Syria has "not supported" Lebanon's attempts to control Hizbullah, which "has been allowed to retain its well-armed militia and terrorist capabilities."

Among the groups cited within Syria were Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-General Command, the Abu Nidal organization, Islamic Jihad and the Japanese Red Army.

Iran, Iraq, Cuba, Libya, Sudan and North Korea are the other countries cited as supporters of terrorism. All but Sudan, which was added last summer, had also been listed in last year's report.

In Israel and the territories, Palestinian attacks left 65 Israeli soldiers and civilians dead and 390 wounded, in 1993, while Israeli civilians killed 14 Palestinians, the report said.

The number of intra-Palestinian murders fell dramatically, from 200 in 1992 to 83 in 1993 –a decline "largely the result of a tacit cease-fire" between Hamas and the PLO, the report found. It added that Hamas and Islamic Jihad have been responsible for most of the 17 terrorist killings of Israelis subsequent to the signing of the Declaration of Principles, while the PLO's Fatah wing has committed only "one, possibly two" murders.

The State Department noted the following about other neighboring countries:

- Jordan: Security and police closely monitor secular and Islamic extremists inside the country and detain those seeking to overthrow the government.
- Egypt: Islamic militants killed two foreigners and wounded 18 others in attacks designed to upset the tourism industry. Other random bombings killed 22 Egyptians and wounded over 100.
- Lebanon: Hizbullah continues to move freely throughout the Bekaa Valley, and the government "has not taken steps" to disarm the group.

NRA staffers shocked to find nature reserve is included in autonomous region

LIAT COLLINS

NATURE Reserve Authority workers were shocked to find out yesterday that the Jericho autonomous region designated under the Gaza/Jericho agreement includes part of the Wadi Makooch reserve, west of the town.

"We only found out this morning. We asked to see the new map and discovered that part of the reserve is included. We had been told nothing," NRA director-general Dan Peri said yesterday.

Peri sent an urgent letter to Maj.-Gen. Danny Rothschild, government coordinator for the territories, noting the NRA had not been told that any of its reserves were touched by stage one of the autonomy plan, and asking that urgent steps be taken to ensure the organized transfer of the area.

"There is a great deal of work to do before handing over a place like this. We need to mark the border and hand over details of the local wildlife and flora. For example, we need to tell them where raptors are nesting in the cliffs," he said.

So far, there is no one to whom the information can be given. Although the NRA is expected to hand over the autonomous section of the reserve within two to three days, no Palestinian body exists to take control of it.

"I am extremely worried about it. The subject of nature conservation just does not appear on the Palestinian agenda. Although the Declaration of Principles contains a clause ensuring that nature reserves will not be harmed, as far as I know there is no system of wardens or anyone who can institute and enforce nature protection regulations," Peri said.

Knesset gears up for marathon debate of Gaza/Jericho First agreement

DAN IZENBERG

BARRING last-minute changes this morning, the Knesset will spend today debating the Gaza/Jericho agreement. Knesset officials estimated the debate will last nine hours.

However, Likud whip David Mena has threatened to petition the High Court of Justice unless the government also presents the Knesset with the maps and appendices to the agreement.

Yesterday, copies of the official English-language version of the agreement were placed on the tables of the MKs in the plenum chamber. Knesset spokeswoman Sarah Itzhaki said many MKs including Likud Party Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, Benny Begin (Likud) and Shaul Yahalom (NRP), picked up their copies, even though the Knesset was closed because of the Histadrut elections.

Speaker Shevah Weiss said he hoped the Hebrew translation of the agreement would be presented to the MKs this morning. The debate is scheduled to begin at noon, to give the MKs time to study the document.

However, there have already been calls to postpone the debate to give them more time and the beginning of the session may be delayed by several hours.

On Monday, a number of Likud MKs complained to Weiss that the discussion was to be held in the framework of a factional, rather than an individual debate. This means that each faction, rather than each individual MK, is allocated time to speak.

It turned out, however, that Weiss had suggested holding an individual debate; it was Likud MK Meir Sheetrit who had argued that the MKs had already expressed themselves sufficiently on the subject and urged a shorter debate.

Labor MKs in the house committee were only too happy to comply with Sheetrit's proposal.

Savir: Hussein still 'sitting on the fence'

Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir, speaking in New York to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations yesterday, criticized Jordan for not cooperating enough in the peace process. "His Royal Shyness King Hussein is still on the fence," said Savir. "He'll tell you he's surviving, and we should stop courting him. But his participation is needed."

Compulsory car insurance to be valid in autonomy

INSURANCE companies supplying compulsory car insurance will provide Israeli motorists with the same coverage in the autonomous areas as they receive inside Israel, according to Meir Shavit, who heads the Treasury's division on the capital market and insurance.

According to the Cairo agreement, the Palestinians living in the autonomous areas are to carry compulsory insurance almost identical to that offered in Israel, and it will be valid inside Israel as well.

Compulsory insurance taken out in Israel will be valid in the autonomous areas after the necessary legislative action is taken, which Shavit said would be soon.

The Karnit fund, which today covers claims not covered by insurance, will have its authority extended to cover differences in damages awarded in the autonomous areas – as opposed to within Israel – in cases in which an Israeli citizen is injured inside those areas. Karnit will also be authorized to pursue Israeli claims with the Palestinian authorities.

Shavit said he saw no reason to raise today's already high compulsory insurance rate. (Itim)

Weiss asks Knesset panel to clarify limits on MKs' freedom of movement

EVELYN GORDON

KNESSET speaker Shevah Weiss yesterday asked the Knesset house committee to clarify the limits of MKs' parliamentary freedom of movement in light of the agreement with the PLO.

Weiss said he has recently received many complaints from MKs regarding two issues: attempts by MKs to visit administrative detainees, and MKs' stays in various places due to be handed over to the PLO, such as the synagogue in Jericho.

Although traditionally, parliamentary freedom of movement has applied to the territories – within the limitations posed by state security – a change might be needed in light of the Cairo agreement, he said.

APOLOGY

We regret that in two obituary notices published on Monday, May 9, there was an error in the name of Moshe Nativ, Director General of the Jewish Agency.

JERUSALEM DAY QUIZ – CORRECTION:

An error unfortunately crept into the question on John the Baptist in the Jerusalem Day Quiz. The question should have referred to the place of his birth (and not his place of burial).

D-1433h

Hitachdut Olei Britannia (British Immigrants Association) and The Jerusalem Post

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Tickets – NIS 75

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JEWISH AGENCY
Immigration and Absorption Dept.

3 Years After Operation Solomon

14,260 Ethiopian Immigrants in 31 Hours

The Immigration and Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency is celebrating the third anniversary of Operation Solomon, the theme of the celebrations being young immigrants and young people from the Diaspora.

Wednesday, May 11 – Gathering of Young Immigrants, to Mark Jerusalem Day
The gathering will take place in the Mt. Scopus amphitheater, at 5:00 p.m., in the presence of the Acting Chairman of the Zionist Executive, Mr. Yehiel Leket, the Head of the Immigration and Absorption Dept., Mr. Uri Gordon, the Director of the Immigration and Absorption Dept., Mr. Arnon Mantber, and the Manager of the Adult Education Division, Dr. Meir Peretz.

Monday, May 23 – Certificate Award Ceremony for Graduates of the "Alei Tzameret" Program – Young Immigrants Leadership Project
The ceremony will take place in Binyenei Ha'uma (small hall) at 5:00 p.m. Graduates of Sessions Alef, Bet and Gimmel are invited to attend.

Tuesday, May 24 – Gathering of Young People of the Ethiopian Community, to Mark the 3rd Anniversary of Operation Solomon
In the presence of the Minister of Immigrant Absorption, Mr. Yair Tsaban, and the Head of the Immigration and Absorption Dept., Mr. Uri Gordon, the Director of the Immigration and Absorption Dept., Mr. Amon Mantber, and the Head of the Students and Pupils Administration, Mr., David Sourdi.
Certificates will be awarded to outstanding pupils, graduates of the soldiers' trade training project, and outstanding immigrants and students.
Graduates of the soldiers training program, their officers, and students are invited to the gathering, which will take place at Mt., Scopus at 4:00 p.m.

03-876Aq

Opponents wary of Noriega party's election comeback

Winner promises to include opposition parties in government

DAVID LUHNOW
PANAMA CITY

THE victorious comeback of Manuel Noriega's old party in Panama has stirred concerns that the new government might revert to the corruption and thuggery that characterised the ousted dictator's regime.

Ernesto Perez Balladares, who won a slim victory in Sunday's election, spent much of his campaign allaying voters' fears and distancing the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) from the Noriega era.

The populist PRD was driven into the opposition by the 1989 US invasion of Panama that toppled Noriega. But under Perez Balladares, a former finance minister and Citibank executive in Panama City, the party's rehabilitation started.

It was the only party in Panama to hold democratic internal elections to fill the top spot in its slate of candidates for Sunday's contest.

Perez Balladares pledged to do more for Panama's poor without bloating the bureaucracy, and he said he would include opposition politicians in his government to expand his mandate beyond the 33 percent of the vote that he won Sunday.

His rivals remained calm as election results put Perez Balladares ahead. President Guillermo Endara praised the orderly polling process and said he was proud of Panama's democracy.

The United States praised the elections as "free and fair." One of the pretexts for the 1989 invasion was allegations of fraud in that year's violence-marred elections.

"We are very pleased that the elections were conducted in an apparently free and fair way," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said in Mexico City.

Christopher said the Clinton administration will negotiate with Balladares to ensure a trouble-free transfer of the Panama Canal from US to Panamanian hands, set for December 31, 1999.

But a prominent US businessman in Panama City said the key concern was not Perez Balladares himself, but lower-ranked members of his government who had had close ties with Noriega.

"There's a sense (PRD members) are going to want to be rewarded for having been out of power for a few years," the businessman said.

Although Perez Balladares promised a fiscally responsible government, his glowing references to the party's pre-Noriega golden years under General Omar Torrijos suggests his government will loosen spending to ease poverty and other problems in this nation of 2.5 million.

"Torrijismo will always be relevant in Panama because it is a doctrine for the sick, the poor, the jobless," Margaret Scranton, a Panama expert at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, said in an interview.

That vision of government – and Endara's failure to offer a more appealing alternative or root out corruption – helped return the PRD to power.

But some groups that suffered under previous heavy-handed PRD governments were uneasy after Perez Balladares' main rivals conceded defeat early Monday morning.

"It is a worrisome event, but we will have to see how they behave themselves," said Roberto Troncoso, the head of a human rights group, the Panamanian Human Rights Committee.

Troncoso, who like hundreds of Panamanians was jailed at various times under Noriega, said the PRD could cut short Panama's democratic development if its authoritarian roots took hold again.

Perez Balladares said late Sunday he promised "at least as clean elections during 1999 as (those that took place Sunday)."

"Panamanians have said the past is behind us and we are ready to build a nation together," he said. (Reuter)

Malnourished children eat corn provided by the International Red Cross at a center in the city of Ganda, Angola. The Red Cross says that 35 people die every day from diseases and starvation in this city, which is besieged by UNITA rebels. (AP)

WEU – all dressed up but still nowhere to go?

ANALYSIS
NICHOLAS DOUGHTY

THE Western European Union, long dismissed as an obscure talking shop on defense, has finally put together all the elements needed to give it a real job in the turbulent post-Cold War world.

Within the last year, it has acquired forces of its own, access to the vast military resources of NATO and a formal mandate to work on behalf of the European Union under the terms of the Maastricht treaty.

At a meeting in Luxembourg on Monday, the WEU went one step further by offering political and military links to the countries of Eastern Europe that go beyond anything currently on offer to them from NATO's "Partnership for Peace".

The only problem is that no one is asking the WEU to do much. It sits on the sidelines as the United Nations turns to the US-led NATO when it needs serious military muscle.

"The WEU is not an equal partner in the sense of having equal military capability," British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said at the meeting of the group's foreign and defense ministers in Luxembourg.

Bosnia is a case in point.

While NATO has assembled a massive show of air power to protect Moslem "safe areas" and UN troops, the WEU is limited to a minor role in helping enforce sanctions against Serbia with a small naval force in the Adriatic and police on the Danube.

Germany and France both said at the Luxembourg meeting it was time to make the WEU live up to its potential.

German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe said the group could be used for rescuing Europeans trapped in troublespots like Rwanda or Yemen, instead of leaving it up to individual countries.

"We should do everything we can to do such operations jointly," he told reporters.

Diplomats say there are several reasons why the nine-nation WEU, founded in 1954, has failed so far to fulfil its promise.

When the Cold War ended, the United States and Britain argued that it should not be given a major role as the European Union's future defense arm since this would undermine NATO.

In addition, the Brussels-based WEU had no forces or military structure of its own, leading many to the conclusion that it was simply not equipped to handle any crisis in Europe.

Some of those problems have now been solved.

US President Bill Clinton has taken a much more encouraging line on European integration than the previous administration, while the WEU now has forces it can use.

These include the "Eurocorps", set up by France and Germany, and other units which could be used either by NATO or the WEU. In addition, NATO leaders agreed at a summit in January that the European defense group could, in certain cases, make use of alliance assets such as headquarters units and bases. (Reuter)

Moslem, Croats negotiating borders in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (AP) – As Moslem and Croat leaders haggled over the borders of their federation yesterday, Bosnian Serbs prepared to consider how much territory they would be willing to cede.

In the Bihac area in northwest Bosnia, Moslem-led government forces came under attack from Moslem troops loyal to a renegade local leader, a UN spokesman said. Most battle fronts between Serbs and Moslem-led government troops were reported quiet.

Peace talks among Moslems, Serbs and Croats have been suspended for nearly three months.

In Vienna, Moslem and Croat delegations bargained for a fourth day over internal borders for a federation they are to form in central and southwestern Bosnia, under an agreement signed March 18 in Washington.

They have settled on district borders in central Bosnia, but apparently made no progress on borders around Mostar and Stolac in southwestern Herzegovina.

"Mostar should be under European Union administration, as was agreed," said Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, asked to comment in Zagreb. "But, it should also be a capital of the Bosnian Croat canton in Herzegovina."

That is something the Moslems apparently reject.

Even if the two sides agree, the maps will be largely pointless as long as Serbs hold 70 percent of Bosnian territory. Mediators say the federation needs 51 percent of Bosnia to be viable.

Mitterrand raises profile to mark 13th year in office

PARIS (Reuter) – President Francois Mitterrand last night marked the 13th anniversary of his election on prime-time television, hoping to recapture the political initiative in his last year in office.

Mitterrand, 77, a Socialist forced to "co-habit" since March 1993 with a conservative government with a huge parliamentary majority, has lost most of his power but not his influence as he heads towards the end of his second and final seven-year term.

He has emerged in the past week from a long public silence to reassert his favourite themes of European integration, nuclear deterrence and social justice.

"Mitterrand has two aims: to leave office on a high note, basking in public approval, and to influence the choice of his successor and set his agenda," a senior European diplomat said.

In a speech last Thursday, he set out his nuclear deterrence doctrine, playing on rifts among his conservative opponents by saying he did not believe France would ever resume the nuclear weapons tests he halted.

Conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur contradicted him yesterday by saying France would not sign a nuclear test ban treaty as long as it needed weapons tests to maintain the credibility of its deterrent.

Re-elected triumphantly in 1988, Mitterrand's star has waned since it reached its zenith during the Gulf War in 1991.

The ill-fated appointment of Edith Cresson as prime minister in June 1991 triggered a rapid decline in public favour that led to Socialist election debacles in 1992 and last year.

The president has clawed back some esteem by cooperating courteously with Balladur and adopting an elder statesman role.

Two opinion polls published yesterday showed voters almost evenly divided on Mitterrand's presidency. One found 46 percent considered his legacy negative overall and 43 percent positive. The other showed the electorate split 47-47 percent.

Voters gave him high marks for his defense of liberty, France's place in the world, European integration and social peace, but low ratings on unemployment, immigration, purchasing power and corruption.

Balladur's approval rating soared by 10 percentage points to 54 percent in May after a recent slump due to unemployment and student unrest over a now-abandoned youth wage cut.

The first major television interview for six months should also give Mitterrand a chance to respond to the deaths, scandals and intrigue which have tarnished his last months in power.

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Mandela thanks his white jailers for years of company

PRETORIA (Reuter) – President Nelson Mandela yesterday publicly thanked South African white jailers who befriended him during 27 years as the world's best-known political prisoner.

He spoke with emotion of extraordinary human bonds between them despite the harsh rigour of apartheid prisons.

It was a striking tribute from Mandela, 75, a onetime guerrilla and political fugitive who spent half his adult life entombed by the state as a "non-person."

In apartheid's grimmest years, even the public use of his name or that of his African National Congress could become a jailable offence.

Mandela used one of his first speeches as head of state to hail prison friendships surmounting South Africa's racial divide and easing the torment of jail-cell solitude.

He linked these warders with outgoing white president F.W. de Klerk, who released him four years ago, and thanked them for their roles in bringing black rule to South Africa.

He said, on his inauguration day as South Africa's first black president, that he had sent special invitations to three warders to attend the ceremonies as VIPs..

The friendship was shared equally. One of the trio, James Gregory, fluent in several African languages, told a reporter of his "empty life", since parting from Mandela after two decades.

Gregory said Mandela was a man he admired and was prepared to die for in later years when he had a bodyguard's role.

Mandela said his 27 years in prison had left him with many friendships among the warders. Those friendships had undermined the efforts of the white government to persecute blacks.

"I spent so many years in prison," Mandela told a lunch of dignitaries after his inauguration. "You will be surprised to know the friendships, the strong friendships, which were built between black prisoners and white warders.

"It was difficult for the policymakers to persecute us as they wanted because we became friends with our warders."

Three who had watched over him on Robben Island off Cape Town were invited to his inauguration.

"I invited them to come...because I wanted them to share in the joys that have emanated around this day. Because in a way they also contributed," Mandela said.

He reserved special praise for his predecessor de Klerk, for a remarkable ability to reform his ideas about apartheid and Congress (ANC) which now leads a government of national unity.

Referring to de Klerk as "my friend", Mandela recalled an incident when de Klerk had condemned South African rugby authorities for making contact with the "terrorist" ANC.

"I mention this as a measure of the change he has undergone, the personal courage – the vision, the honesty, the integrity with which he came to examine the situation in South Africa and used his enormous power as the head of the government to bring about reforms," Mandela said.

Watching South Africa's day of change, grey-haired former Prison Service lieutenant James Gregory recalled a treasured friendship with Mandela, the prisoner.

Of February 11, 1990 when Mandela was released, Gregory said: "He came up to me, looked at me and embraced me, saying: 'We'll meet again.' We both had tears in our eyes."

He produced a card Mandela left, saying, "The wonderful hours we spent together during the last two decades end today. But you will always be in my thoughts..."

When Gregory's son Brent died, Mandela sent a note:"Few things are as painful as an invisible wound."

Gregory arrived in 1967 on bleak, windswept Robben Island penal colony where he had to censor the prisoners' mail – their sole lifeline to the outside world.

"Things were happening that were not totally right," he told the Star newspaper here. "For example, warders were told to demoralise these people because they were seen to be terrorists.

"I put a stop to that immediately. From that time, a trust developed between us, from both sides."

Mandela's departure to freedom changed things for him. "I could not adapt to the dull routine. Life had become empty for me. I stuck it out for a year and then retired."

Members of the public examine a piece of art work by Damien Hurst at the Serpentine Gallery in London's Hyde Park. The piece shows a dead sheep suspended in glass tank of formaldehyde, and sold for £25,000. (AP)

Heavy fighting in Kigali; US aid flights reach Rwandan refugees in Tanzania

NAIROBI (Reuter) – Rwandan rebels bombarded a key army barracks east of Kigali's international airport yesterday, but during a brief lull the first UN plane for several days managed to land.

"There were heavy exchanges of fire from early morning until midday," UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) director Abdul Kabia said by phone.

"Then there was a lull and we were able to land our plane," said Kabia. Soon after the plane taxied to a halt, heavy artillery exchanges broke out again.

Residents contacted in the city said there had been heavy casualties on both the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) and government sides during yesterday's fighting.

Advancing RPF forces attacked the government barracks at Kanombe near the airport over the weekend and rebel artillery has twice hit an ammunition dump in the base, witnesses said.

The United States, in its first military involvement in Africa since pulling out of the bloody 15-month operation in Somalia, announced yesterday it had started flying relief supplies to Rwandan refugees in Tanzania.

The US embassy in Nairobi said 15 "Starlifter" C-141 military planes were flying relief supplies to nearly 250,000 Rwandan refugees in Tanzania and Burundi. It said further flights were possible.

In Kigali a Ghanaian soldier died late on Monday after he was hit by shrapnel from a mortar bomb which exploded in Amahoro stadium where thousands of people have taken shelter from fighting that has gripped the country for more than a month.

Some 60 civilians, mainly Tutsis, were killed on April 19 when government forces shelled the stadium, according to the UN but Kabia said it was not clear who had fired three mortar bombs at Amahoro on Monday.

Three more shells exploded in Amahoro yesterday causing no casualties, UNAMIR spokesman Major Jean-Guy Plante said.

The Ghanaian, whose name was not immediately available, was the first UN soldier to die in Rwanda since 10 Belgians were disarmed and butchered by presidential guards on April 7.

That brutal incident, and renewed fighting, triggered a drawdown in UNAMIR forces from 2,500 to 270. Four Ghanaians have been wounded, one seriously, in the Kigali clashes.

A Canadian transport plane was forced to turn back on Monday when at least one shell slammed into the runway tarmac, but Kabia said the UN was getting the warring parties to agree to hold their fire on a plane-by-plane basis.

Rebel positions have a bird's eye view of the airport but commanders on the ground said their target was first to besiege the Kanombe barracks a few hundred metres east of the runway.

UNAMIR Major Plante said the mainly Tutsi RPF was also trying to cut the main road from the airport to the city and there was heavy fighting close to the UN headquarters as government troops struggled to defend the route.

Since the fighting erupted last month the RPF has agreed with UN proposals to hand the airport over to the world body for the delivery of relief aid and UN flights.

But government troops have refused to do this and have based artillery and helicopter gunships there.

Kabia said UN military chief Major-General Romeo Dallaire would again deliver ceasefire proposals to government army chief of staff Major-General Augustin Bizimungu and RPF military leader Major-General Paul Kagame.

Suspected war criminal held in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (Reuter) – A former German Nazi SS captain was under house arrest in southern Argentina yesterday pending extradition in connection with the worst war crime committed in Italy, an Argentine judge said.

Erich Priebke, 81, was arrested in the southern Andean resort of San Carlos de Bariloche, where he had lived for 46 years until he was traced by the US ABC-TV.

Bariloche judge Leonidas Moulides told local radio he ordered the arrest on the request of Interpol and with the understanding that a formal extradition request from Italian authorities would follow.

"Among the documents we received was the promise that the extradition would be requested," Moulides said. He said Priebke was being held at his home because of his age and infirmity.

His arrest followed the issuance of a warrant Monday by an Italian military prosecutor who wants to try him in connection with the reprisal killings in March 1944 of 335 Italians at the Ardeatine Caves near Rome.

The Italian Justice Ministry said it had begun formal proceedings for Priebke's extradition. An Interior Ministry statement said two senior Italian Interpol officers had been dispatched to Argentina.

Priebke's lawyer, Pedro Bianchi, said Monday the extradition case was flawed and would likely fail. Bianchi, who defended former Argentine military junta leaders, said the massacre was a war crime subject to a 10-year statute of limitations in Argentina and not a crime against humanity.

Priebke, who lived in Bariloche without concealing his identity, says he fled Italy in 1948 with the help of the Vatican, a claim rejected by a leading Roman Catholic historian. He acknowledged in an ABC interview last week that he had been involved in the Ardeatine killings and said he regretted his part and had been following orders.

Priebke says all the victims were Communist partisans. Jewish and Italian organisations maintain that the SS included Jews, common prisoners, women and teenagers to meet a quota of 10 Italians for every German killed by the bomb.

South Yemen troops said pushing northwards

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) – Soldiers set up checkpoints at major intersections in San'a, the capital, yesterday amid reports that southern forces have regrouped and are pushing northward.

If true, this would mark an apparent reversal of the tide in the civil war that erupted Thursday and erode hopes for salvaging the four-year-old union between conservative North Yemen and the socialist south.

But it remained impossible to determine who was winning – northern forces backing Yemen's President, Lt. Gen. Ali Abdullah Saleh, or southern forces backing the former vice president, Ali Salem al-Beidh.

The north claimed in official communiques that it had seized strategic highlands overlooking the southern coastal stronghold of Aden.

But northern officials privately said the south had regrouped and was pushing north, with northern troops bogged down well north of Aden.

The southerners said their forces had thwarted a ninth attempt to penetrate Aden's defenses and claimed Sudan had sent forces to fight alongside the northern troops.

Islamic Sudan, which allegedly has close links with Yemeni fundamentalists in the north, denied the claim.

The impoverished nation of 14 million on the Arabian peninsula's southwestern tip has been moving toward war since August when al-Beidh stalked out of San'a and returned to his southern stronghold of Aden.

He complained of northern domination of the young democracy and of the slow pace of integration.

The May 1990 union had been a popular move. But the two sides' armies were never merged, eben though an estimated 15,000 southern troops were deployed in the north and some 8,000 northern troops sent to the south.

When the war erupted last week, it was sparked by fighting between rival forces living in adjacent barracks in Amran, north of San'a.

At its birth, Yemen became the Arabian peninsula's first multi-party democracy as well as its most populous nation, alarming the region's autocratic monarchies.

After the conflict flared, Saleh dismissed southerners from the government, the ruling presidential council and parliament, including al-Beidh.

Yesterday, Saleh fired Prime Minister Heidar Abu Bakr al-Attas, a southerner who has been abroad for weeks, reportedly for medical treatment in the United States.

Foreigners continued to flee the war-wracked nation, with at least 2,000 having left by yesterday.

Although the northern government has been trying to maintain an aura of normalcy in San'a, where it ordered all shops and businesses to remain open, soldiers yesterday set up checkpoints throughout the ancient city.

(Full background, Page 8)

US serial killer gets lethal injection

JOLIET, Ill (Reuter) – John Wayne Gacy, convicted of more deaths than any serial killer in US history, was executed yesterday by a balky lethal injection machine that took 18 minutes to end his life for killing 33 young men and boys.

"He got a much easier death than any of his victims," said William Kunkle who prosecuted Gacy and won the death sentence against him in 1980.

He said Gacy did not suffer even though the process took nearly twice as long as it should have.

Gacy "took a deep breath and kind of dozed off," said Howard Peters, director of the Illinois Department of Corrections. He said Gacy appeared to be unconscious and unaware that one of the poisons designed to end his life had failed to reach its mark.

Peters said the incident "seems to be .. a problem with the chemicals jelling or blood clotting in the needle."

He said the curtains were closed blocking the view of witnesses in an adjoining room while a tube was replaced and Gacy was pronounced dead at 12:58 a.m. CDT (0558 GMT).

One witness said Gacy "swallowed hard" and stared at the ceiling when the poison first began flowing into his body. Another witness said she was told by a prisons spokesman that Gacy's last words to him were "kiss my ass or words to that effect."

Peters said Gacy's final words when he was wheeled into into the death chamber strapped to a gurney were that "taking his life would not compensate for the loss of the others ... This was the state murdering him and this wouldn't serve justice."

State officials said Gacy's body was turned over to the local county coroner and its disposition or burial would not be revealed at Gacy's request. He was known to have purchased a plot in a suburban Chicago cemetery near the graves of his parents.

The device employs an intraveneous line that delivers first a knock-out sedative followed by two poisons, one to stop breathing and a second to stop the heartbeat.

Twenty-three survivors of some of Gacy's victims came to the prison but were kept in a separate room and not allowed to view the execution.

More than 1,000 people spilled onto a floodlit meadow outside Stateville (correct) prison as the hour for Gacy's execution passed, many shouting "Burn in Hell," "Kill the clown" and "We want the body."

Gacy had worked as a freelance clown at one time, entertaining at parties.

Some tried to blow out candles held by outnumbered death penalty opponents who came to protest.

Gacy's death ended a bizarre day in which hundreds of demonstrators marched through downtown Chicago streets cheering his impending death; an art gallery held a show of his prison paintings, one of which had a $50,000 price tag.

Officials at Stateville prison 113 km southwest of Chicago described Gacy as "chatty .. talking up a storm" before he was served his last meal – fried chicken, French fries, cola and strawberries – in advance of the execution.

For his final hours the Roman Catholic-bred son of a Polish immigrant had also requested Mass to be said in the execution room holding cell by a prison chaplain whom he had served as altar assistant during his years behind bars.

Lebanon wants charges dropped against Palestinians

SIDON (AP) – The prosecutor in the trial of two Palestinians accused of the 1984 assassination of a Libyan dissident in Berlin dropped the charge yesterday and asked the court for their release.

The request by Prosecutor Hatem Madhi could clear the way for the extradition of one of the accused, Yasser Chreidi, to stand trial in Germany for the murder of Libyan Mustafa Ashek and the 1986 Berlin discotheque bombing.

Madhi told the Criminal Court that the 1984 killing of Ashek in West Berlin had political motives, and thus was covered by a 1991 general amnesty for political crimes committed during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

"Therefore, the prosecution asks for the release of the accused," Madhi told the three-man tribunal convened in the southern provincial capital of Sidon.

Presiding Judge Mohammed Moallem scheduled a June 14 session to rule in the matter.

"Long live justice," shouted the wife, mother and uncle of Chreidi simultaneously. The three were attending the court.

"I had nothing to do with what happened in Germany," a smiling Chreidi told the judge.

"I insist on exoneration," replied Ayoub to a question by Moallem.

Chreidi, 34, and Ghassan Ayoub, 38, have been held in Lebanon since they returned from Communist East Germany in 1989 following the collapse of the Berlin Wall. Both have denied killing Ashek by a muffled pistol on a West Berlin street March 29, 1984.

The duo are suspected followers of Palestinian terrorist mastermind Abu Nidal, although both denied that in court. Abu Nidal tops the wanted list in the West and in several Arab countries for attacks that killed scores of people.

Chreidi, who worked as a driver at the Libyan diplomatic mission in Communist East Berlin, was also implicated in the April 5, 1986, bombing of the La Belle discotheque in West Berlin, which was frequented by American servicemen. Two off-duty US officers and a Turkish woman were killed and about 230 people wounded.

Chreidi also denied involvement in the bombing, which prompted then-President Ronald Reagan to order US air raids against Libya, host and main backer of Abu Nidal.

Germany has demanded Chreidi's extradition in both cases. In Lebanon he stood trial for the Ashek killing. Lebanon and Germany have no extradition treaty and it's up to the Lebanese government to decide whether to extradite.

If the court decides on a release, the government will be in a position to heed Germany's extradition request from a legal standpoint. If the suspects are sentenced, the verdict should be carried out in Lebanon before extradition is considered.

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The Ramon victory

HAIM Ramon's overwhelming victory in yesterday's election for Histadrut secretary-general is not only a great personal triumph; it is an unmistakable signal of the public's desire for change.

No one in Israeli politics has succeeded in assuming the mantle of opposition to incumbent leadership more adroitly than Ramon. From his appearance in the Labor convention prior to the Knesset elections in 1992 – when he threatened to bolt the party unless its platform reflected new socio-economic thinking – to his impassioned plea in support of his health bill before the recent meeting of the Labor central committee, Ramon has boldly and consistently waved the flag of revolution.

It took unusual courage and inordinate self-confidence to bolt the Labor party and to run for Histadrut secretary-general; and it required great political savvy to defy party leader Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. But Ramon had enough "street smarts" to foresee that he would have an easy time in this race. Unlike the incumbents in the government, secretary-general Haim Haberfeld radiates grayness. He is the unimaginative bureaucrat incarnate, the party apparatchik par excellence.

That Ramon at 44 does not see the Histadrut job as anything but a stepping stone to higher office is obvious. He clearly intends to follow David Ben-Gurion's footsteps and make the Histadrut a springboard to the premiership. But he will lose credibility if he now relegates the job to another, as some of his associates have suggested, and returns to the Labor party as a minister in the government.

Ramon's first task should be to put the Histadrut's clout behind his health bill. He should remove the coercive aspect of Histadrut membership and separate the Kupat Holim Clalit health fund from its clutches. He should sell off Histadrut property and privatize its industries. He should make the Histadrut nothing more than a labor federation, concerned with improving the lot of workers.

Like Binyamin Netanyahu in the Likud, Ramon has shown that youth, personality, a photogenic smile and a common touch – the attributes expected of American politicians – work wonders here too. If he proves faithful to his promises and equal to the task of revolutionizing the Histadrut, he will probably be Labor's natural choice as party leader. In this sense, his election signals the passing of Labor's torch to the new guard, and the beginning of a new era in Israeli politics.

From prison to president

NELSON Mandela was standing only 10 kilometers from Robben Island prison on Monday when parliament formally chose him as South Africa's first black, first freely-elected, president. It was a journey that has taken the lifetime of the 75-year hero of the struggle against a system so inhuman and unjust that it can only take its place in history's trashcan alongside National Socialism and Communism. The nationwide outpouring of joy and peaceful celebration at his inauguration in Pretoria yesterday was one of the few heartwarming stories that has come recently to a dismal international scene.

The color and exuberance of yesterday's multi-race ceremonies above all exemplified a remarkable spirit of reconciliation after the long, bitter and bloodstained path that led to free elections and the victory of the African National Congress. The credit for the optimistic spirit of the new South Africa must be laid squarely at the door of the new president. He has followed, more than any other recent leader who has climbed on the world stage, Winston Churchill's dictum of being magnanimous in victory.

Despite the quite fair agreement that cabinet seats should go only to parties that scored more than five percent support in the election, Mandela said his new government will include as broad a spectrum of national opinion as possible – five percent or not. This is an entirely different attitude from the one of winner-take-all and petty revenge which has been the norm in Africa. South Africa has been almost miraculously fortunate in producing a leader of Mandela's serenity, and doubly fortunate in producing the reformer F.W. de Klerk to pave Mandela's way to the presidency and black South Africans' to freedom in just four short years.

But henceforth, the right South African attitude must be that God helps those who help themselves. The international good will that launches the new nation is unparalleled. Jubilant officials claimed that representatives of 200 foreign states were in Pretoria and, as one cheerily observed, "we don't even know if there are 200 states in the world." There is something about the freeing of South Africa's blacks that strikes deep chords everywhere – easing guilt in old colonial powers and giving new hope to Third World regions where the people's aspirations have fallen foul of dictators' greed and incompetence.

As South Africans enjoy the greatest party in their history, it would take a real curmudgeon to grumble that it might all end in tears. But parties have been known to precede hangovers and at the end of the fun lie some forbidding realities for the new president. In this cruel world, multi-ethnic arm-linking and dancing cannot always prevent difference becoming division. The new government will have to move swiftly from paper hats to concrete goals – the most important being political stability and economic growth.

For the moment, South Africa will be regarded as the first European-style state on the continent. Its people have come to power with near-perfect historical timing. They have had enough time to learn from the hideous mistakes of their neighbors. They are post-Cold War. They have thrown up the right leaders to show the way forward, who have been extremely wise in choosing a national unity government system for five years. But, for potent reminders of the price of failure, they have also the vanished euphoria over the collapse of the Berlin Wall and Communism, and the optimism for "new world orders." Four years ago was before black rule. It was also before Bosnia, before Armenia, before Rwanda.

Down to earth in Gaza

TEDDY PREUSS

WHEN the Belgians pulled out of the Congo in 1960, they left behind a rich country, but no local administration to impose law and order in their ex-colony.

Elections were held. But they didn't prevent the outbreak of civil war, which drove out the white population and forced the UN to send in a large peacekeeping force.

Local chiefs hired white mercenaries. One chief, Moise Tshombe of Katanga, gained control of the country, only to be toppled a few years later by his own chief of staff.

That was one of the more depressing examples of independence, African-style. The Belgians were, to a large extent, responsible. In contrast to the British and the French, Belgium had made no effort to train a generation of local politicians and administrators, and so it left a total void when it pulled out.

Congo, today's Zaire, was the most wretched example of the decolonization process on the Black Continent. Somewhat less serious were the cases of Kenya, Tanzania and the Ivory Coast.

The most successful example of independence, in African terms, was Rhodesia. A modus vivendi between whites and blacks was found. Together they molded Zimbabwe, a stable and relatively prosperous country.

People are now waiting to see what happens in the Republic of South Africa. Will it turn out another Congo-Zaire, or will it emulate the more successful Zimbabwe?

Over to the Middle East. With bated breath, we follow the fate of Yasser Arafat's new kingdom, eager to see what happens there. The beginning doesn't bode well, even though Israel has nurtured a generation of administrators (including a police force), from which politicians have sprung.

Immediately after the signing of the Cairo pact, it became clear that the Palestinians are still unprepared to take on the responsibilities incumbent upon an independent entity.

Somewhat ironically, it is the inhabitants of Gaza and Jericho who are asking Israel to "babysit" a while longer and maintain law and order. It would be the height of sad absurdity for the former ruler to be summoned back after a few years of independence (as Britain was to Kenya/Uganda/Tanzania) to defend the regime against rebel forces. In Africa, this military operation resulted in a few casualties only. In Gaza and Jericho, the situation could be much graver. If Israel is asked to "return," a great deal of bloodshed will ensue.

When the intifada erupted, all Palestinian policemen resigned, as did other public officials. Thus there is currently no local police force.

The situation in the civil administration has been better and Arafat might do well to let its officials continue at their posts. But he is behaving like American presidents who, on making it to the White House, replace all the previous administration's top-rank executives with their own men.

The trappings of sovereignty won't provide the Palestinians with breakfast, lunch or supper

In Gaza and Jericho, the result of this would be collapse of the administration and lack of clarity over who's boss – or even who's foreman or warden. So who will collect taxes, maintain internal security, deal with the water supply – all the everyday things? No one knows.

Arafat's Tunis-based team of politicians may be better than local talent. But as far as preparing the ground is concerned, the local officials are more suitable.

So we must expect to see differences erupt, like they did in Algeria, where the exiled Ahmed Ben-Bella returned to take charge of the local leaders until they threw him out. Arafat is surely aware of this precedent, and is therefore trying to take over the existing machinery by putting his Tunis associates in at the top.

IN GAZA and Jericho – in fact, in all the territories – there is hardly an economic pie to live on. Something substantial to be shared must first emerge.

The economic agreement with the autonomy authority, signed in Paris, will likely introduce some order into relations between Israel and the self-government. But it doesn't answer the need for jobs and income. If those continue to be based on employment in Israel, we will have done nothing but establish a Palestinian labor camp, but not an independent economy capable of ensuring economic well-being and prosperity.

According to Treasury calculations, Gaza and Jericho will need a government budget of close to NIS 1 billion annually. The Israeli civil administration has been spending about NIS 300m. annually. Merely financing an 8,000-strong police force will require about NIS 500m. Another NIS 150m. will be needed for expanding the Palestinian authority. And none of this includes even a penny for economic development.

Israel and the international community have promised to help. But how much? And for how long?

The economic agreement includes clauses protecting Israel from results of the autonomy more than the reverse, even though Israel's GNP almost 30 times that of all the territories. Industry in the territories is in its vulnerable infancy, and yet Israeli industrialists are already anticipating "unfair competition."

Our farmers scream even louder. Though the agreement permits the import of several goods from the territories, tomato, cucumber, potato, egg and fodder marketing will be greatly limited for the next five years. It's like allowing Iceland to export everything but fish! These five crops are what give the territories a relative advantage over Israel. Barring them will reduce the Palestinians to selling us onions, oil and fighter planes?!

In political and security terms, it's hard to guess at the future. But economically, it is clear there will be a sharp recession in the Palestinians' standard of living. Stamps, passports, a flag are symbols of sovereignty, giving the Palestinians a sense of dignity and independence. But they will not provide breakfast, lunch or supper.

Adding the magic word "investments," which everyone hopes will be forthcoming, doesn't explain just what the investors will be putting their money into. Unlike the Republic of South Africa, Gaza and Jericho have no mines, oil, minerals or industries to attract investors. Not to mention that political stability will be somewhat less than in Sweden.

So a bit of pessimism is in order regarding that rosy future the Palestinians are hoping for.

The writer is a senior journalist with the daily Davar.

Puff off

SYDNEY SCHANBERG

NEW slogan for the anti-cigarette crusade: Smoking kills, so stop it or we'll kill you.

Sure I've thrown in some hyperbole. But, face it, that's what it's come to. In order to save civilization from the lethal qualities of demon tobacco, the crusaders are abandoning civility. Smoking does kill, and public policy should be pitted against it. But do we have to become barbarians in the process?

Across the US, bands of unofficial smoke police are forming up to stamp out the puffers. To evade them, smokers are hiding in stairwells, standing in the rain outside their office buildings, sitting behind the doors of toilet stalls pretending to have hourly diarrhea. If this is war, how about at least giving enemy prisoners the basic protections of the Geneva Convention?

Many years ago, I was a heavy smoker. Four packs a day. Now, a decade after heart-bypass surgery, I smoke an occasional cigar – following the tension-relieving example of my cardiac surgeon. With this cutback in my tobacco use, I figured I'd done my bit for clean air. But try telling that to the smoke police.

Do I object to their cheap cologne? Of course not. I believe in the social contract. But let a mere suspicion of a curl of smoke reach their olfactory sensors, and they're banging on the door screaming that I'm killing them. What's killing them is their choler. A burst blood vessel will get them long before passive smoke does any damage.

Where there's smoke, there's fire... lots of it

Look how far it's gone. Just the other day, a couple in Dover, New Jersey sued their downstairs neighbors, a 60-year-old widow and her daughter, because the mother stayed home a lot and smoked. The "stench" overwhelmed them, according to their lawsuit, causing the wife to become nauseous and the husband to cough, sneeze and wheeze, aggravating his allergies.

The couple, presumably on the lawyer's advice, hired an environmental expert to test their apartment. There's money for everyone in this crusade. You won't believe what the expert found. Nicotine on the walls and carpets. He wrote a sworn statement saying so.

FORTUNATELY, the judge was rational. He expressed sympathy for the complaining couple, but pointed out there was something called a privacy issue here. He sent the whole thing back to the directors of the town house cooperative complex and told them to try and settle the squabble out of court. Then he told the plaintiffs to buy the best smoke-eating machine they could find, and perhaps he would get the co-op board to pay for it.

Wise man. He could have gone for the headlines and ordered the widow and her daughter to do all their smoking in the woods. Worse, think of the precedent and all the lawsuits that would have followed.

As it is, those suits are probably going to happen anyway.

In my own apartment building in Manhattan, a smoke patrol has materialized. Seems a resident has been slipping out the back door of his apartment into the stairwell corridor now and then to smoke a cigar. The strong odor bothered some of the neighbors, and they made an attempt to waylay the stogie man. One night, the patrol caught me putting out the trash and asked me if I knew anything about the culprit. I didn't, and said so.

Later, I learned, they had decided the trash story was a cover for my true reason for being in the back corridor – covert cigar smoking. Someone had apparently seen me at one time holding an unlit cigar in the elevator and they put these clues together and came up with: "Gotcha!"

Fortunately, since they're nice people, they didn't go for their Uzis and instead simply put a polite note in the elevator asking the cigar smoker to please knock it off.

There are a lot of ways to lower tobacco consumption without throwing away our mutual respect and manners. Putting your neighbors in the stocks is not one of them. Neither is making pariahs out of people who still find something relaxing in a smoke.

A shrillness is in the air in the US. And it's not confined to the smoking issue.

Maybe we've just lost touch with the idea of tolerance and have fallen in love with discord.

The writer is a columnist for Newsday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ACCOUNTANCY IN ISRAEL

Sir, – I refer to Allison Kaplan Sommer's informative article of April 15, "The big guns of world accountancy target Israel," in which there are some inexactitudes, the most important of which concerns the hurdles to be overcome by the American "Big Six" to enter the Israeli market.

According to regulations promulgated in 1965 by the Israeli minister of justice by the authority vested in him by the Auditors Law, 1955, it is forbidden for Israeli accountants to engage in accountancy work in partnership with non-accountants (i.e. persons who are not licensed by the Israeli minister of justice according to law), to use a firm name not in accordance with the regulations (as stated in the article), to make payments or other benefits, or promise such benefits directly or indirectly for getting professional work, and lastly to let a non-accountant participate in income from the profession of an accountant. Also, an accountant must not divulge clients' information to non-accountants who are not in his employ. Since it is practically impossible for any of the "Big Six" to qualify as Israeli accountants (which would mean that all partners qualify as such), there is at present no legal way for non-Israeli firms to enter the Israeli accountancy market.

Some of the "Big Six" tried for many years to enter the Israeli accountancy market, but did not get any further than some sort of loose relationship with Israeli firms. As a matter of fact, most major Israeli firms have some loose relationship with international firms. Therefore it is too early to speak of a major breakthrough for Israeli accountancy firms to join any of the "Big Six."

CHAIM COHEN, CPA
Jerusalem.

VERBAL VIOLENCE

Sir, – I was saddened but not surprised to read that students of a *hesder* yeshiva physically attacked MK Shlomo Buhbut and his family outside their house (April 24). Ever since the signing of the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles in September 1993, members of the opposition, especially the so-called religious right, have engaged in relentless verbal violence against the government. Prominent right-wing politicians have not shrunk from calling those disgusting posters with faked pictures of Rabin in a keffiyah or handing a rifle to Arafat have become a staple at all right-wing rallies. We are now witnessing the first tangible results of such irresponsible behavior.

I am convinced that this incident was only a beginning. The verbal violence is finally resulting in physical assaults. This is an inevitable process unless the leaders of the opposition find the courage and decency to condemn the extremism and hatred which they have allowed to flourish in their ranks. Otherwise, the intemperance of the extreme right threatens us all with civil war.

MARTIN J. GORVIN
Ramat Gan.

THE FACE OF OUR COUNTRY

Sir, – The authorities assure us that "at this stage," terrorists "with blood on their hands" will not be released.

Two questions:

1. It being understood that this applies to murderers of Jews only – where are all the societies for human rights, the bleeding hearts, all the beautiful people from the "Peace Camp" to protest against this racist discrimination between Jewish and Arab blood?

2. Historic research has it that Adolf Eichmann never spilt Jewish blood with his own hands. The Holocaust literature invented a special term to define the key role he played: *Schreibtisch-mörder*, a murderer from the writing desk.

Not so the State of Israel. Those who sent the murderers, those who gave the orders, did the planning, organized, financed, furnished the murder weapons – all these will return here or be released from prison. Some of them will even serve as... "police" officers.

As in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, the face of our country slowly and gradually transforms into the contours of a monster.

ELYAKIM HA'ETZNI
Kiryat Arba.

CORRECTION

The name of the author of the book *The Magic Carpet*, mentioned in a letter from a reader from England which appeared on May 4, is Shlomo Barer, and not as published.

POSTSCRIPTS

THE WHITE HOUSE wants to put a Bill Clinton look-alike out of business.

Bad Boy, a Canadian furniture company, is using Tim Watters in its advertising, but a White House lawyer has asked the company to stop "the unauthorized use of the president's likeness."

"I'm not sure if the White House knows it's me or if they think it really is the president," Watters said. "Why are they even spending time on this? Doesn't the White House have more important things to worry about?"

"Everybody shops at Bad Boy," says Clinton – er, Watters in the ad.

The lawyer's letter warns that the president's name, image or words cannot be used for endorsements without permission.

"Tim can't help how he looks," said Watters' agent. "He's going to be stuck with this for the rest of his life."

Said the factory owner: "Nowhere in the ad does Bad Boy say that the president's double is the commander-in-chief. I'm not going to pull the ads."

SAY YOU LEFT $1,000 in the cookie jar and your kitchen burns to cinders. Should you just kiss those cash ashes goodbye?

Not if you're an American, says Vicki Singleton.

Singleton solves jigsaw puzzles, piecing together bits of mutilated money to verify claims for currency often damaged beyond recognition.

She's one of 20 Treasury Department experts who decide whether the ashes and paper fragments sent to the department really were money – and how much. Confirmed losses are replaced.

"It's very tedious," said Singleton, a 12-year veteran, as she sifted gingerly through the charred contents of three burned coffee cans and a small metal box. She said it would take about two months to verify the owner's claim that the containers had been filled with $33,000 when his house was destroyed in a fire in 1991.

In 1992, the department redeemed about $600 million involving some 29,000 claims.

At least 51 percent of the mutilated bill must be recovered or, in the case of fire, enough of the note or a sufficient amount of recognizable ash to determine the currency's denomination and authenticity.

The process is very low-tech.

"We use everything from knitting needles to tweezers to scalpels to adhesive tape – and a lot of elbow," said researcher Gracie Scruggs.

Sometimes money has to be boiled several times before the bills can be peeled apart.

The largest claim ever was $2.5 million paid to the owner of an armored car destroyed by a 1978 explosion in New York.

The largest amount redeemed in 1993 was $328,740 that had been buried in a metal box in the basement of a home in Hillsboro, Texas, that flooded. The owner, apparently thinking much less was involved, had submitted a claim for just $10,000.

A lot of people, especially the elderly who had bad experiences with banks during the Depression, bury their money. "Others tend to stick them in microwaves or ovens," Scruggs said. "When they bake the roast, they bake the money too."

Claimants must be able to prove their losses, which has driven some people to disgusting ends. Take the case of an Iowa farmer who filed a claim some years ago for $600, explaining his cow had eaten his wallet.

When the redemption branch said it would be unable to pay the claim without proof of loss, the farmer had the cow slaughtered, submitted a portion of the stomach containing the still-undigested cash – and received his Treasury check.

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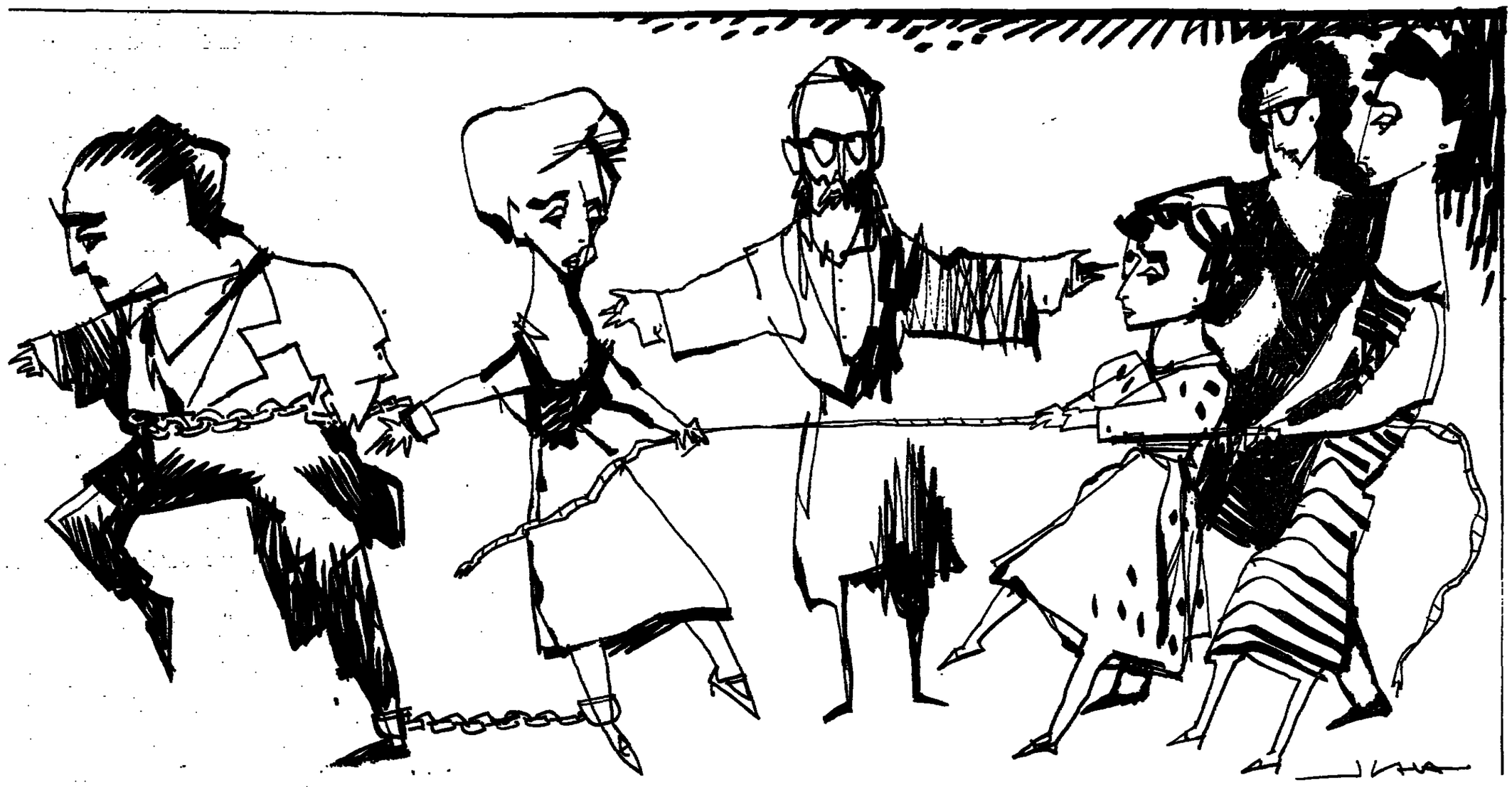

Looking for a global solution to a global problem

Women who yearn to be free

Norma Joseph, president of the International Coalition for Aguna Rights, tells Sasha Sadan that the goals of the group are far from being achieved

NORMA Joseph heads one of the largest coalitions ever built around a single Jewish issue.

Joseph is the president of ICAR, the International Coalition for Aguna Rights, and its list of member organizations reads like a roster of the world's most powerful Jewish women's groups. It was established last year to help women who have been denied a *get* or bill of divorce because their husbands are either recalcitrant or missing. Such women cannot remarry under Jewish law.

The problem affects an estimated 10,000 to 16,000 women in Israel and tens of thousands more around the world. ICAR's message is clear: Much needs to be done to free women who cannot obtain a divorce.

Last week, ICAR held its first international conference in Jerusalem. Those who attended ranged from ardent feminists to zealous defenders of Orthodoxy, and some – like Joseph – who could be described as both.

JOSEPH, 51, is a lecturer in the department of religion at Concordia University in Montreal. Her speciality is women and religions; she became involved in the issue of agunot (literally "anchored women") as an outgrowth of her commitment to Judaism.

Joseph says she is just an ordinary, happily-married-for-29-years mother of four, and a teacher. Her husband, Howard, is the rabbi of the oldest Jewish congregation in Canada, Shearith Israel in Montreal.

Born in Brooklyn, Joseph is the daughter of a salesman and a medical secretary. Her home was deeply religious and she always aspired to study.

After she married and pursued her studies in anthropology, she had a moment of "feminist awakening" when a university committee refused her a six-month extension to complete her first doctoral dissertation. The committee did not consider giving birth sufficient reason for an extension.

Joseph is now completing her second dissertation at Concordia on the work of the late Rabbi Moshe Feinstein – "the great rabbinical arbiter," she calls him – who died in 1986. Joseph notes that he filled seven volumes of responsa; she is focusing on just some of them.

She had trouble accepting the fact that a Jewish woman who wants a divorce cannot get one if her husband doesn't want to or cannot give her one.

Her research on the issue was not sparked by personal acquaintance with agunot, she says. But when she began to lecture on it to small groups, "the agunot found me."

IN 1986, Joseph joined Evelyn Brook – now chairwoman of the Canadian Coalition of Women, "which was the model for ICAR," Joseph says – to lobby for an amendment to the Canadian Federal Divorce Law that would help agunot. They sent hundreds of letters and lobbied politicians in every party.

In 1990, they emerged victorious, with an amendment that reads: "No person shall maintain barriers to the religious remarriage of their spouse that are within their control."

"It didn't solve every case, but it helped a lot," Joseph says.

The seriousness of the plight of agunot has led to a coalition, under the ICAR umbrella, of organizations which are not usually linked together, such as Emunah, the Orthodox women's movement, and the radical Woman to Woman in Haifa.

The largest Zionist organization in the world, Hadassah, is a member of ICAR, and so is WIZO, the Women's International Zionist Organization; the Na'amat women's organization; B'not Brit; the Association of University Women; Amit; the Israel Women's Network, and, in the UK, the Jewish Women's Organization.

ICAR also includes small organizations focused entirely on this issue such as the Association of Agunot and Women Denied Divorce in Israel, and, in the US and Canada, Agunah Inc. and GET.

AT LAST week's meeting, the ICAR debate reflected the organizations' differing voices and the need to find consensus. Joseph says she felt like a kabbalist "pulling out the sparks," trying to find the common ground that would unite everyone, but also allow the group to take forceful action.

Here in the past year, ICAR has had a legal committee and a halachic committee working to formulate a program of action. Organization representatives have also been speaking to audiences around the country.

Rabbis working with the halachic committee have agreed on a number of means for pressuring husbands who refuse to grant a divorce. These include denying him the right to get a passport or a driving license, to be employed by a public body, or to open a bank account. Bills specifying these sanctions failed to pass in the 12th Knesset, but one submitted to the current Knesset has received an OK from the Religious Affairs Ministry and was sent to the Justice Ministry for review last December. ICAR has called on Justice Minister David Liba'i to move the bill back to the legislature for a vote.

ICAR also wants chief rabbis Yisrael Meir Lau and Eliahu Bakshi-Doron to publicly support some of the halachic suggestions ICAR has made, such as having rabbis use annulments in more kinds of cases than is done now.

Lau came to the ICAR meeting, but his response was disappointing. He noted that neither of the chief rabbis was universally recognized as a Tora sage, and their backing for a certain stand in the religious courts would not necessarily guarantee that such a standard would be followed by all. Lau compared the situation to the Kanowitz Law, which allows prosecution for noise pollution but is basically ignored.

Joseph disagrees, saying there is more that could be done by the rabbinical establishment.

"If the rabbis feel that the pressure is global," she says, "they will find a global solution for it."

WHEN Keren Simantov was 23, she realized her marriage wasn't working. She moved with her year-old daughter into a room in her parents' home. Now she is 37 and still waiting for a divorce.

"There isn't a day I don't cry. I live without hope," says Simantov. But she picked herself up last week and left Tel Aviv, where she works as a nursery-school aide, to attend the conference in Jerusalem of the International Coalition for Aguna Rights, which brought together lawyers, community leaders and experts on Jewish law.

Simantov and up to 16,000 women like her in Israel, and tens of thousands elsewhere in the world, were the focus of the ICAR meeting.

Simantov says her husband simply refuses to divorce her, even though they haven't lived together for 13 years and throughout that time "their case has been dragging through the rabbinical courts."

Simantov says she agreed to lower the amount of child support her husband had to pay, and, at the suggestion of Eli Ben-Dahan, administrative director of the rabbinical courts, offered her husband NIS 5,000 to grant a divorce. He refused.

"I think he wants to take revenge," says Simantov. "He wants to see my life ruined."

She says her chance to have more children is gone. "I am like one of those prisoners of war," she adds, folding her arms across her chest to indicate that she can't do anything.

Legally, she is still married. "If I have another child," she says, "he will be a *mamzer*," the issue of a married Jewish woman and a man other than her husband, or of any other union forbidden by Jewish law. A *mamzer* may marry only another *mamzer* or a convert to Judaism. The child from the union of a married Jewish male and a single Jewish woman is not so affected.

Simantov opens her purse and removes some documents. One is a letter from her social worker, dated March 1993, and addressed to the rabbinical court. It says she and her daughter are suffering because they are in emotional limbo and the healing process can't continue.

Another is from Ben-Dahan, addressed to Rabbinical Court Judge Rabbi Ezra Bar-Shalom, dated this month. It says: "To my sorrow the husband refuses to grant a divorce for no reason."

A rabbinical court can, in extreme cases, order that a man be jailed for refusing to grant a divorce. One court did this in the case of Petah Tikva resident Ora Avraham, who, at 24, left her husband and took their two daughters with her because he was violent and did not support them. He chose jail and is still there. His wife is 64 and still waiting to be freed.

"This case is frequently cited [to illustrate] the futility of [trying to compel] divorce," one of the tools the rabbis have, notes ICAR spokeswoman Lesley Sachs.

In other words, rabbis can order a man to divorce – which has been done fewer than 100 times in the state's history – but he can still refuse.

At the ICAR conference, a few cases of agunot were cited by Sachs:

- Sarah Shuker, at age 14, married a relative who turned out to be violent. She asked for a divorce at 18. At 24, she left her husband with her three daughters, leaving behind all her possessions. The rabbinical court termed her "a rebellious wife." This year, 17 years later, she reached a divorce settlement giving control of their common property to her husband, but he reneged.
- Mazal Sa'il married Daniel, not knowing that he had been in a mental hospital and that he was sterile. He was jailed for an extremist act, and after his release left Israel. He was never heard from again. Mazal, after 17 years, is applying to the rabbinical court to have her marriage annulled after a previous request was turned down.
- Sigal Szamosi, a former El Al air hostess and successful jewelry shop owner in Los Angeles, married Tom, who ran the business into the ground. In an attempt to start anew, they moved to Israel with their two daughters. Still unhappy, Tom returned to the US and contact between Szamosi and his family diminished. He has said he will not grant a *get* unless she meets his demands, such as financial "compensation." *S.S.*

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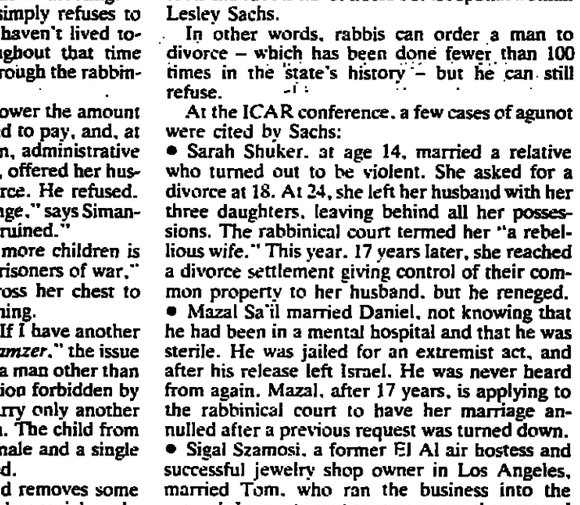

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Yemen: A fractious land with a history of war

News agencies

YEMEN'S southern and northern forces are battling for control of this fractious Arabian land, only four years after it was merged into a single state for the first time in almost 500 years, and the country of 13 million people once more seems bent on disintegration.

But it is not Yemen's first war. The country, both partitioned and united, has been plagued by wars and coups for the last 30 years. Here is a summary of the main conflicts, and profiles of the two leaders currently locked in battle:

• 1962 – Civil war erupts in what becomes North Yemen when Imam Ahmed, the feudal priest-king, is ousted by Egyptian-led republican rebels eight days after succeeding his father. Egypt sends 70,000 troops to support the republicans, but tribal leaders rally around the Saudi-backed Ahmed.

An estimated 200,000 Yemenis and Egyptians are killed or wounded before the republicans, aided also by the Soviets, triumph in 1969.

• 1964 – Egyptian-backed rebels in the British-ruled colony of Aden, which later becomes South Yemen, launch a guerrilla campaign against the colonial power. Hundreds are killed. Britain withdraws on November 29, 1967.

• 1967 – Saudi Arabia sends Yemeni exiles, aided by dissident tribesmen, to topple the leftist government in Aden. Border fighting erupts and Saudi forces enter the conflict in November 1969. The fighting continues sporadically until March 1976.

• 1970 – Aden-backed Marxist rebels launch a campaign in neighboring Oman to overthrow the ruler, Sultan Said bin Tamimur. They are defeated in a six-year war by British troops, aided by Omani and Iranian forces.

• 1972 – Fighting flares between Saudi-backed North Yemen and Marxist South Yemen from September 26 to November 28.

• 1979 – War between North and South erupts February 15, following the assassination of North Yemeni president Ahmed Gashmi. Salem Rubay Ali, the southern president, is blamed and subsequently overthrown. A cease-fire takes effect March 3.

• 1986 – Civil war erupts in South Yemen January 13 between president Ali Nasser Mohammed and Marxist rivals, who eventually topple his regime. Officials put the death toll in 12 days of heavy fighting at nearly 4,250. But diplomatic sources say it was closer to 10,000.

PRESIDENT ALI Abdullah Saleh, the northern leader, has survived wars, coups and assassination attempts for 16 years.

He ruled North Yemen – where two presidents were assassinated and three toppled – for 12 years, longer than anyone else since the 1962 republican revolution.

After ruthlessly imposing some stability on his traditionally unruly land, he became president of the Republic of Yemen when the conservative, tribal north united with socialist South Yemen in May 1990, a merger he largely engineered.

A member of the powerful Hashed tribe, Saleh was born in 1942 and attended Koranic schools, receiving a limited Islamic education. He entered military college in 1960.

As a major, he helped plot the monarchy's downfall, triggering the seven-year civil war between the Egyptian-backed republicans and Saudi-backed royalists. After the republican triumph in 1969, Saleh, who had been wounded several times, commanded an armored division.

He rose to prominence in 1977, when he was involved in the October assassination of strongman Col. Ibrahim al-Hamdi. He was close to Hamdi's successor, Col. Ahmed al-Ghashami.

Ghashami was assassinated in June 1978, and Saleh was elected president by parliament a month later. He crushed a military coup August 10, 1978, and another two months later, the latter one backed by Libya.

In his early years in power, Saleh wore a nervous, hunted look and was considered to be politically inept. But he developed confidence and cunning, shrewdly manipulating the truculent and powerful northern tribes. As leader of the General People's Congress Party, he built up a powerful personality cult.

In 1979, fighting erupted with South Yemen and went badly for Saleh. He was saved by the Saudis and his other ally, Iraq, who arranged a cease-fire. But the Saudis became extremely demanding and he looked for other ways to consolidate his regime, moving closer to Moscow. There were times, however, when he seemed to lean toward Washington.

In 1980, he began negotiating with the south. The union took a decade to achieve. When it came, the fledgling republic was soon in trouble. It sided with Iraq in the 1990 Gulf crisis, incensing the Saudis, who expelled one million Yemenis and cut off $1 billion in annual aid.

Amid allegations Saleh was amassing power for himself, relations with the south deteriorated and war broke out May 5.

VICE PRESIDENT Ali Salem Al-Beidh was one of the diehard South Yemen Marxists who opposed merging with conservative North Yemen.

But four years after escaping political assassination because of that stance, he led the south into the merger in 1990. The decline of Aden's mentor state, the Soviet Union, and worsening economic conditions were driving forces that reversed his opposition to the union.

In 1986, however, al-Beidh and Yemen Socialist Party leaders vigorously opposed president Ali Nasser Mohammed's leadership, including his leaning toward a Saudi-backed union with the north.

In January of that year, six top party officials were invited to meeting Mohammed. It was a trap. Mohammed's bodyguards opened fire on the men when they showed up.

Three were killed instantly. Al-Beidh and two others escaped with wounds, though one died later.

In the 12 days of bloody fighting that ensued, Mohammed was overthrown and fled north. A new government was formed and Prime Minister Heider al-Attas, who was in India when the war erupted, became president. But al-Beidh was elected the party's general secretary, the real power behind the scenes.

He was born in 1939 in what was then Britain's Aden protectorate. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology at the University of Cairo; when he returned home, he joined the Arab nationalist movement seeking to expel the British.

When the British left in 1967, al-Beidh, not yet 30, was named defense minister in the post-independence government. He held various portfolios, strengthening his position in the Marxist Yemen Socialist Party, which became the sole political power.

Al-Beidh became vice president of the unified Republic of Yemen. But political rifts soon emerged, as Saleh seemed intent on squeezing out the southerners. Al-Beidh stalked out of San'a, the infant republic's capital, in August, deepening the feud that led to war.

Syria's Christians looking to leave

DOUG STRUCK

MALULA, Syria

THE yellowish cliffs here are pocked with rectangular holes, the cave-homes of ancient Christians. In a small shop at a cliff base, Sleman Waken sends his son Fadi scurrying on an errand, speaking in a tongue that sounds vaguely like Hebrew.

"It is Aramaic, the language Jesus spoke," says the shop owner, as he makes a lunch of bread and hard yogurt. "We speak it because we are proud of it. It was the language of our ancestors."

Here in Syria, the country with ancient claims to leadership of the greater Arab world, Christians live and thrive.

Syria is a country of chilling political repression. But while the Christian minorities in other Middle East countries suffer from attacks by Moslem fundamentalists, government repression and social isolation, Syria's ancient Christian community practices its rites openly and securely.

"There is no difference between Christian and Moslem here," says Habib Francis, 33, cutting wood in Maluja, a town of 5,000 north of Damascus. "We join in celebration of good times, and we share in the bad times."

But the bad Syrian economy, and the fear that religious protection will end with the current regime, have caused Syrians to join the swell of Christians leaving the country.

An estimated 850,000 Christians live in Syria, about 9 percent of the population. Christians were 14% of the population when Syria won its independence in 1943.

"Sure, I'd go to America or Europe. Every young person wants to go," says Garo Barushein, a young Armenian Christian lounging in an Armenian social club.

"If a young man says he wants to leave, I cannot say no," says a dejected Rev. Farez Freijate, a Greek Catholic priest. He had a parish in Damascus and then moved to oversee a dark, moody monastery in Malula.

"I have spoken out for 10 years against emigration," he says. "Syria without Christians would be a different Syria. Nobody wants that."

But "because of the economy, it is very difficult now for a young man to start a family here," he concedes. "Everything is expensive. For the young Christian – or young Moslem – the big grace that God can give him is a visa to the US or Canada or Europe."

Syrian President Hafez Assad and many of his inner circle are Alawites, a small Moslem sect that has been viewed with suspicion and occasionally open rebellion by fundamentalists of the majority Sunni Moslems. As a result, Assad has offered generous protection to the minority Christians.

"The government feels an obligation to protect minorities," said Armenian Orthodox Patriarch Souren Kataroyan. "With the government, we have very warm relations."

One of the major sects of Christians is the Armenians. They came to Syria in waves after the Turkish genocide of World War I, and stayed because they were given a warm welcome.

"We feel loyal to Syria. We teach the students to love the country more than anything else," said Augustinos Vartabeid Kussana, principal of the St. Gregory School of 1,250 Armenian pupils in Aleppo.

Syria's ruling Ba'ath party was founded in the 1940s by a Christian, Michel Aflaq, who advocated allegiance to Arab nationalism over religion. The government is stridently secular.

The question, though, is what happens after the Assad regime ends. Although Christians have not been a target of the Moslem fundamentalist movement here, they could be.

"For now, the president is taking a steel hand against the fanaticism," said one Christian church official. "The Alawites fear, more than us, the dark future."

(Baltimore Sun)

Northern Yemeni troops, on top of an armored vehicle in Lawdar, wave to a northern air force helicopter. (AP)

The invisible civil conflict

JEROME SOCOLOVSKY

LAWDAR, Yemen

FLYING over the mauve-streaked mountains and rocky gorges of central Yemen, where the occasional goatherd nudged his flocks along wadis, there were no signs of the civil war between north and south that is tearing this country apart.

But the half-dozen reporters riding a creaky Russian-built military helicopter from Sanaa, the northern capital, to the southern front knew there was a war going on as the pilot skimmed breathstoppingly low through jagged passes and jinxed around razor-backed ridges to escape detection by southern MiGs.

They were the only foreign journalists who made it into Sanaa before links were cut with the outside world when the conflict erupted last Thursday.

As the newsmen, Arabs and Westerners, clambered out of the yellow helicopter onto the arid earth at the northern army base at Lawdar, 175 km north of Aden, the imperiled southern capital, a guard carrying a Kalashnikov assault rifle inquired: "Amriki?" American?

One journalist cautiously nodded yes. "Welcome!" the guard said in English, smiling.

The base was manned by the northern Amalqa, or Giants, Brigade. Most of its soldiers were advancing south down the coastal road as part of a three-pronged assault closing in on Aden.

The base lies at the foot of a desert mountain range, where the southern coastal plain begins. An occasional whirlwind sent columns of desert sand spiraling into the sky.

Scores of weary soldiers in faded fatigues shaded themselves from the blazing sun under papaya and eucalyptus trees outside dilapidated cement barracks painted in light blue.

But seeing the newsmen's cameras, they jumped up to pose for photographs, making V-for-victory signs.

There was no sign of war damage, even though Lt. Abdul Karim Assaholi, 41, said there had been air strikes by southern warplanes.

"It was hell," he said.

The base commander, Col. Neji Ali Obeid, claimed that over the weekend his men routed three southern brigades at Mahfad, about 100 kms to the east, after three days of fighting.

"The Amalqa Brigade is fighting for Yemen's unity," Obeid told reporters in his dank, unadorned office. He refused to say how many troops were in the brigade.

The reporters were taken to another bare room where several southern prisoners sat silently on flattened cardboard boxes, mosquitoes swirling around faces covered with shrapnel wounds.

The sullen captives would only say they were being treated well.

The military had planned to fly the reporters further south to witness the carnage of war at Mahfad, but the flight was aborted just before takeoff because of an air-raid alert.

The reporters and their escorts scrambled out of the helicopter and into the slit trenches snaking around the perimeter of the landing area. But the southern warplanes never came. (AP)

Yemen's military balance

In north and south Yemen, the military high commands and air forces were integrated after unification. Here is a breakdown of the military balance:

NORTH: Total armed forces – 40,500

Army – 35,000, plus 25,000 national guard troops and militia

Tanks – 664 T-54, T-55, T-62 and M-60s

Armored fighting vehicles – 340

Heavy artillery – 382 howitzers, 120mm mortars, 130mm guns, 122mm multiple rocket launchers, 8 SS-21 surface-to-surface missiles

Combat aircraft – 43 MiG-21, MiG-29, Su-20, Su-22

Navy – 8 patrol craft, 3 mine countermeasures craft, 2 amphibious craft

SOUTH: Total armed forces – 37,500

Army – 24,000, plus 30,000 paramilitary, plus 35,000-man tribal force and 15,000-man People's Militia

Tanks – 480 T-34, T-54, T-55, T-62

Armored fighting vehicles – 665

Heavy artillery – 261 130mm guns, 122mm guns, 120-millimeter mortar launchers; 8 FROG-7 Scud-B surface-to-surface missile launchers; 7 SA-9 surface-to-air missiles

Air Force – estimated 114 MiG-21, MiG-23, MiG-29, Su-20, Su-22 and helicopter gunships

Navy – 6 missile craft, 2 [illegible] craft, 3 mine countermeasures craft, 2 amphibious craft

(International Institute for Strategic Studies)

Preparing for a regional tourism boom

HAITHAM HADDADIN

BEIT MERI, Lebanon

EXPERTS at a recent tourism conference in Lebanon forecast a Middle East tourism boom when peace is signed and urged Arab countries to join up with Israel to reap the dividend.

They told the country's first international tourism conference in 20 years that Middle East tourism would grow 4 percent a year until the year 2000 – twice the world average – reaching 11 million annually compared with seven million last year.

"The interest around the world in this area is tremendous," said Geoffrey Gray-Forton, chairman of the UK-based Meetings World Associates.

"For two decades people who would have otherwise come here have not.... There's a whole big market out there; two generations that have chosen to go to the Caribbean or southeast Asia and have flown over this area."

"Peace, cooperation and the market, these are the three reasons for hope for tourism in the Middle East," Francesco Frangialli, deputy head of the Madrid-based World Tourism Organization, told the conference.

The experts said Lebanon, Syria and Jordan could win a bigger slice of the cake only by uniting efforts and resources to provide quality services to attract tourists.

Some even suggested that tourism officials of the three countries meet their Israeli counterparts to work towards selling the whole region as a tourism package.

"The Israelis are more commercially aggressive. I suppose I would put them in the top three in the world... along with Hong Kong and South Africa," Gray-Forton said.

"I would have a meeting with them.... Think about it. Do you really think Singapore is in love with Macao, or Singapore [with] Malaysia? They hate each other but they present this image... that they are all friends and work together."

Syria, Lebanon and Jordan signed a tourism cooperation pact in 1993 that they hope will ensure them a share of the region's tourist pie now dominated by Israel.

A Jordanian official confirmed the pact was intended to counter Israel's weight on the tourism market.

The two-day conference attended by delegates from 16 countries was held to find ways to implement the 1993 pact, which calls for common development, promotion and marketing of tourism. (Reuter)

France raps Algerian 'barbaric' killing

ALGIERS – Algerian security forces killed 15 Islamic militants last week in sweeps of five regions in this north African country, the Algerian APS news agency reported, quoting security sources.

Eight of the 15 Islamists were killed in six separate operations in various parts of the capital Algiers, APS said.

France, meanwhile, is outraged at what it called the "barbaric" killing of two French religious workers in Algiers and said it was deeply concerned by civil strife.

"Today Algeria is one of the most serious concerns of the prime minister [Edouard Balladur]," government spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy told French radio.

The two French nationals were shot and killed by suspected Moslem militants in the Casbah district of Algiers. The Foreign Ministry identified them as Father Henri Barthelemy Verges and Sister Paule Saint Raymond, and reiterated its advice that French nationals whose presence in Algeria was not vital should leave the country.

"Profoundly moved by this act of barbarity, [French authorities] condemn this odious crime which targets the foreign community," the Foreign Ministry said.

The two deaths brought to 34 the number of foreigners killed in Algeria since September 1993, including eight other French nationals.

At least 3,500 people have been killed in violence, blamed by the army-backed government on Moslem fundamentalists, since January 1992, when the authorities canceled an election the militants were poised to win. (News agencies)

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

Media reporting on Israel is not only relentlessly unfair but immensely harmful to Israel and to democratic values.

The Jerusalem Post's popular and hard-hitting *Eye on the Media* column cites specific media reports and names to expose the bias, distortions and gross factual errors that plague such coverage. Reprinted here are 97 recent columns on the way the American, European — and Israeli — media report events.

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Teddy Kollek (Davar, August 21, 1992)

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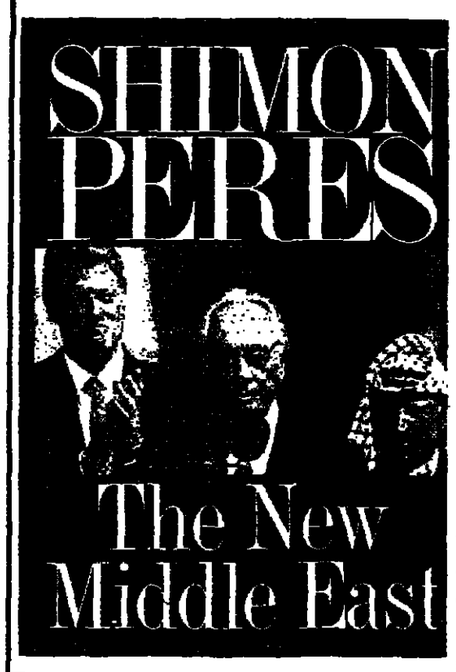

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Teva reports rise in profits, but shares fall

RACHEL NEIMAN

TEVA shares fell 1.25 percent on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday, despite reporting a 26% rise in first quarter net profits to $17 million from $13.5m. in the same period last year.

The pharmaceutical manufacturer's stock dropped 4% earlier in the day before recovering somewhat.

On the NASDAQ market in New York, however, Teva's shares were up 1⅝ to 24⅛ in afternoon trading.

The increase in net profits was attributed to vertical production and in-house manufacture of raw materials.

Sales increased to $136.7m. in the first quarter from $118.4m.

The gross profit margin edged higher to 45.1% from 44.1%.

Teva now exports some 60% of all products. Although there were no new FDA approvals for Teva drugs, the company registered a 35% rise in exports to the US generic drug market over the reported period.

As part of a strategy to diversify research and development costs, the company will invest some $2m. in Weizman Institute-based Portman Pharmaceutical.

Teva acquired a 30% share in the company during the first quarter and will also benefit from revenues on development rights.

The company also purchased a 34% share in Prographarm Laboratories, a French firm specializing in slow-release pharmaceutical technologies, whose first quarter revenues were reflected in the report.

Trade deficit jumps 50.6% to $789m.

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE trade deficit jumped 50.6 percent to $789 million last month compared to March, as imports rose 7.6% and exports fell 10%, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Imports rose to $1.935 billion from $1.798b. in March, while exports fell to $1.146b. from $1.274b.

The bureau attributed last month's large trade gap to the purchase of a passenger airplane.

However, imports rose 8.4% in the first third of the year compared to the previous third, while exports ticked down 0.5%. During that period, the trade deficit widened by 31.3%.

Industrial exports, excluding diamonds, rose a seasonally adjusted 5% in the first third of the year compared to the previous third, which registered a 2% drop.

Most of the increase is attributed to the rise in machinery, electronics and freight transport exports, which increased 10%.

During that period, rubber and plastics exports rose 6%, while textiles and clothing exports increased a moderate 2%.

By contrast, chemicals, optics, precision machines and jewelry exports were flat, while mining, quarrying and food exports registered drops of between 7% and 9%.

Diamond exports rose 13% to an average $290m. a month in the first third. Agricultural exports also increased 6% to $426m.

Production input imports rose 5% to an average $815m. a month. About a third of the increase was attributable to part and component imports for the electronics and freight transport industries.

There were marked rises of 12% to 13% in raw materials imports for the food industry and of wood and wood products. Imports of raw materials for paper production, of chemical products, cloth, thread, metal and iron increased a more moderate 2% to 4%.

By contrast, precious metal imports dropped 4%, while rubber and plastic imports decreased 1%.

Investment goods imports, such as machinery, equipment and vehicles, jumped 22% to an average $354m. a month.

Machinery and equipment imports rose 19%, while vehicle imports shot up 38%.

Consumer imports, which totaled $242m. per month, rose 11% compared to the previous third. Non-durable household goods imports expanded 12%, car imports 14% and durable good imports 5%.

Dankner joins Postal Authority's tender

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

DANKNER Investments has joined the Idan-Elitec Group to compete forthe Postal Authority's Shoham joint venture tender, the companies announced yesterday.

The Shoham division is the Postal Authority's value-added telecommunications service division, which has licenses to supply such services here and from Israel worldwide.

The division has licenses to supply fax and forward services, as well as satellite and other communication services.

According to the contract, the winner will expand and operate Shoham's services and strengthen its marketing network.

Two other groups are participating in the Postal Authority tender to become a partner in Shoham – the Idan Dankner Investment Group, headed by businessman Eliezer Fishman, and a group made up of Tadiran and Elbit.

Tel Aviv's Textile House was renamed yesterday after Polgat founder Yisrael Pollack on the occasion of the first anniversary of his death. Its new name is the Israel Pollack Textile and Fashion Center. The ceremony was attended by Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo (left), Rahel Pollack, Yisrael's widow, and Kiryat Gat Mayor Ze'ev Boim, representing the city where the textile consortium is located.

Proportion of assets invested in savings programs decline

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE proportion of the public's assets invested in savings programs has steadily decreased from 16 percent in 1989 to 9.6% last year, deputy supervisor of provident funds and savings Linda Ben Shushan reported yesterday.

The decrease occurred as more attractive stock market yields captured a larger proportion of those assets.

Despite the drop, savings program assets registered a 2.4% increase last year to NIS 42.9 billion, compared to an average 2.5% loss since 1989.

Ben Shushan attributed the change to the higher interest banks paid last year on the savings program and to the changes the Treasury introduced into those programs, which improved conditions to savers.

During the first months of the year, when stock market prices fell dramatically, the banks began marketing aggressively the savings programs and raising the interest they pay customers.

Ben Shushan attributed the change to the fact that falling bond yields have made the savings programs more attractive.

Savings programs last year registered a net increase of NIS 613.2 million in investments, compared to a drop of NIS 1.8b. in 1992, as deposits rose faster than redemptions.

Ben Shushan noted that traditionally savings programs which include periodic deposits are less influenced by changes in the capital market.

By contrast, the one-time deposit programs are very sensitive to changes in the markets, inflation and public tastes.

Based on the data, Ben Shushan said the public always expects the Consumer Price Index to rise more than the dollar.

Foreign currency linked savings programs have registered decreases, particularly when expectations are that the dollar will not rise more than the CPI.

The main benefit of savings programs over other investment instruments is that, although they have usually lower yields, the principle as well as the yield are guaranteed.

In addition, the interest, linkage and other benefits are not taxed.

The savings programs can extend for as little as two years up to 18 years.

Savers who withdraw early only receive up to 90% of interest and linkage payments.

The minimal extension period on these programs is one year, with exit periods every six months.

This is meant to encourage savers to keep their money in the programs without having to fear that it will be tied up should they need it.

Ben Shushan said savers should shop around when the extension period for a savings program comes up to make sure it offers a better yield than a new program, since the yield is liable to change from the initial savings period.

The Treasury will be publishing shortly its first annual survey on savings programs, which will be available to the public on request.

Treasury finds NIS 1.5 billion budget shortfall

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Treasury has identified a NIS 1.5 billion shortfall in this year's budget due to unforeseen or unbudgeted expenses that will require the government to alter its budget in July, Treasury spokesman Eli Yoseph said yesterday.

Budget director David Brodet said the government will have to change the budget priorities adopted last year to accommodate the shortfall.

The shortfall derives from the unbudgeted costs to cover the expense of redeploying the IDF as a result of the agreement with the Palestinians, the financial assistance to localities, the implementation of the public sector wage hikes and the recovery program for Kupat Holim.

Yoseph said the shortfall will be made up by cutting the budgets of various ministries and delaying projects. He added that some of the costs could be offset by higher than predicted tax revenues.

The Treasury will soon begin preparations for next year's budget. According to Brodet, many of its priorities will be determined by recent policy decisions.

In particular, he noted the demobilized soldiers' law, teachers' wages, public sector wage hikes, the programs to rescue the defense industries, localities and kibbutzim and providing a child allowance to the Arab population.

Communications Ministry to announce second cellular phone service tender today

JUDY SIEGEL

THE winner of the public tender to provide cellular phone service in competition with Motorola-Bezek's Pelephone will be announced by the Communications Ministry today.

The tender was issued by the ministry half a year ago.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni gave the tender committee, chaired by her director-general Shlomo Vax, six months to chose the winner.

Six consortiums competed in the tender in February. The groups are:

- the Auric/Southwestern Bell (US)/Clal and Iturit Group,
- the Telrad/Hapoalim Investments/McCaw (US) and Belzberg Investments (Canada) Group,
- the Bell South (US)/Safra Brothers/Discount Investments and Israel Aircraft Industries Group,
- the Tadiran/Elbit/Sprint (US) and Canadian Telecom Group,
- the Dankner Investments/IBM Israel/Israel Corporation/Cellular Communications International Inc. (US)/Vanguard (US)/Idan and Elitech Group,
- and the Eliezer Fishman/Haim Bar-On/Ampal/Fairchild (US)/Qualcom (US)/SFR (France)/and Bear Stearns Investments (US) Group.

A Bezek spokesman yesterday said that competition in cellular phone service should "liven up" the field.

Motorola-Bezek's prices for service have already dropped, and a change in regulations that frees the Pelephone owner from having to pay for "air time" for incoming calls has reduced costs even further.

Other members of the tender committee were Baruch Tepper (deputy accountant general in the Finance Ministry); Communications Ministry legal adviser Menahem Ohali; Treasury budget division official Avigdor Schwartzman and Rafi Havida, of the Communications Ministry.

ECI's net profits jump 31%

RACHEL NEIMAN

ECI Telecom yesterday announced a 31 percent increase in first quarter net profits to $17.9 million from $13.6m. in the corresponding quarter last year.

The 1993 figure, however, was affected by a one-time accounting gain of $1.38m.

ECI's shares were down ⅛ to 19 in afternoon trading on New York's NASDAQ market.

Record sales of digital circuit multiplication equipment (DCME) accounted for 42% of total first quarter revenues.

Revenues for the first quarter rose to $84.7m. from $63.6m.

The company reported a drop in gross profit margin to 55% from 56%.

Earnings per share rose to $0.24 from $0.18, based on a 76,097,000 weighted average number of shares outstanding in the first quarter and 73,320,000 in the same period last year.

Elbit yesterday reported a 40 percent fall in first quarter net profits to $7.1 million from $12m. in the same period last year.

Its shares were down 2 to 31.25 in late afternoon trading on New York's NASDAQ market.

Total revenues rose to $159.5m. from $120.9m.

However, gross margins slipped to 31% from 35%.

Forty percent of sales, $64.5m., were to the military sector. Subsidiary Elscint had 34% of sales, $54m., while 26% of sales, $41m., came from new businesses geared toward the civilian market.

Per share earnings fell to $0.38 from $0.65, based on a weighted average of shares of 18,606,000 in 1994 and 18,444,000 in 1993.

Software security developer **Aladdin Knowledge Systems** announced a 94 percent increase in first quarter net profits to $525,000 from $270,000 in the same period last year.

Its shares were up ½ to 6¾ in afternoon trading on New York's NASDAQ market.

Revenues rose to $1.5 million from $881,000. Gross margins went up to 68% from 64%.

Earnings per share fell to $0.12, based on 4,275,000 shares outstanding.

Budget at NIS 2.3b. surplus

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE state budget registered a NIS 2.3 billion surplus in the first third of the year, as tax revenues jumped and expenditures were moderate, deputy capital market supervisor Moshe Sagui reported yesterday.

Although the government still expects to finish the year with its budgeted deficit of NIS 7.5b., it will slow down its borrowing activities this month and in June to limit the diversion of funds from the capital markets, Sagui said.

The government intends this month to raise NIS 700 million in tradeable bonds and NIS 500m. in non-tradeable bonds.

By contrast, Sagui expects the government to redeem NIS 2.4b. in bonds. This means that redemptions will exceed borrowing by NIS 1.2b. this month.

Sagui predicts that in June the government will not exceed by much the NIS 700m. borrowed this month, and the budget will still register a surplus.

About a third of the new government tradeable bonds on the market are unlinked, as the Treasury is making a concerted effort, in the present era of lower inflation, to delink a larger proportion of its debt.

According to Sagui, by the end of the year four percent of all tradeable government bonds in circulation will be unlinked, compared to 2% at the end of last year.

Sagui reported that the Treasury has received many queries as to the government request for proposals for establishing a second stock market.

First Int'l Mortgage Bank posts 4% rise in net profits

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE First International Mortgage Bank of Israel, a subsidiary of First International Bank, yesterday reported a four percent growth in net profits for the first quarter of the year to NIS 3.64 million from NIS 3.5m. in the corresponding period last year.

The net return on equity fell to 7.9% on an annual basis from 8.3%.

Earnings from financing operations before provisions for doubtful debts fell 4.4% to NIS 11.68m. from NIS 12.21m. Provisions for doubtful debts fell 2.8% to NIS 2.32m.

Atzmaut Mortgage & Development Bank, a subsidiary of First International Bank, completed the first quarter with a 14.4% drop in net profits to NIS 1.38m. from a NIS 1.62m. net profit during the same period last year.

The net return on equity fell to 7.5% from 9.6%.

Poaley Agudat Israel Bank, a subsidiary of First International Bank, ended the first quarter with a 138.5% growth in net profits to NIS 1.74m. from NIS 730,000 in the same period last year.

The net return on equity increased to 17.6% from 8.2%.

Management attributed the improved earnings to a 14.2% growth in earnings from financing operations to NIS 5.04m. The higher profits were also due to the 18.1% drop in provisions for doubtful debts to NIS 370,000 from NIS 452,000.

Eurotech high-tech venture capital fund formally launched

RACHEL NEIMAN

EUROTECH, a high-tech venture capital fund, was formally launched yesterday.

Partners in the fund include German industrial giant Daimler Benz, Federman Industries and DEG, who each hold 20 percent, and government-sponsored Yozma Venture Capital, which holds 40%.

The fund intends to invest in fledgling companies in transportation, communications, electronics, electro-optics, information systems, environmental planning and protection.

Eurotech's partners will also provide administrative, strategic and technological support, as well as access to a world-wide marketing network.

Aharon Beth-Halachmi, head of the Eurotech fund and general manager of Federman Industries, said the fund has already raised some $10 million, which it hopes to double by year's end.

Venture capital has been under fire recently for not taking risks, preferring instead to pump up middle-range companies.

Beth-Halachmi cited the partners' outstanding abilities in industry as one of Eurotech's unique aspects, making the fund more attractive to potential investors.

"The very fact that we are involved [with a start-up] will draw in others," he said.

Daimler Benz, which owns Mercedes-Benz and AEG, has interests in all areas of private and mass transport, communications, high-tech and aeronautics through DASA (Deutesche Aerospace).

The Federman Group, owner of the Dan Hotel chain, is active in industry and high-tech through ownership of El-Op and as a 50% partner (with Elbit) in Hetz VaKesef, a developer of remote-controlled flight equipment.

DEG, a German-government sponsored program created to advance the economies of Third World countries, is to provide contacts through a world-wide network.

Yozma was founded by the government to fulfill three main goals – to encourage high-tech industrial growth, involve international companies in Israel's technological sector and encourage the development of venture capital in the private sector.

For current information on potential growth securities in Israel and the U.S., call:

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ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION
Correction

In the Administration's notice on p. 4 of yesterday's paper, offering building lots in Ashkelon, the tender numbers were omitted. These are:

Lot No. 1 — Tender 90/94/Yod Mem
Lot No. 2 — Tender 91/94/Yod Mem
Lot No. 3 — Tender 92/94/Yod Mem
Lot No. 4 — Tender 93/94/Yod Mem

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.5.94)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.000	4.375	5.000
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.625	3.875	4.375
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.125	4.000	4.000
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.875	2.875	2.875
Yen (10 million yen)	0.625	0.750	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (10.5.94)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	BANKNOTES Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.2460	3.2820	—	—	3.2696
U.S. dollar	2.9901	3.0322	2.94	3.08	3.0120
German mark	1.7972	1.8225	1.77	1.85	1.8112
Pound sterling	4.4717	4.5407	4.39	4.80	4.5052
French franc	0.5246	0.5320	0.51	0.54	0.5287
Japanese yen (100)	2.8926	2.9333	2.84	2.98	2.9185
Dutch florin	1.6028	1.6254	1.58	1.65	1.6151
Swiss franc	2.1072	2.1368	2.07	2.17	2.1189
Swedish krone	0.3885	0.3940	0.38	0.40	0.3911
Norwegian krone	0.4144	0.4203	0.41	0.43	0.4173
Danish krone	0.4594	0.4659	0.45	0.47	0.4629
Finnish mark	0.5543	0.5621	0.55	0.57	0.5576
Canadian dollar	2.1573	2.1977	2.13	2.23	2.1805
Australian dollar	2.1469	2.1771	2.10	2.22	2.1708
S. African rand	0.8301	0.8413	0.47	0.61	0.8347
Belgian franc (10)	0.8783	0.8956	0.86	0.90	0.8799
Austrian schilling (10)	2.5562	2.5822	2.51	2.63	2.5752
Italian lira (1000)	1.8842	1.9107	1.84	1.95	1.8964
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.13	4.38	4.2469
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.86	0.91	0.9262
ECU	3.4676	3.5164	—	—	3.4929
Irish punt	4.3638	4.4252	4.28	4.52	4.3956
Spanish pesets (100)	2.1719	2.2222	2.13	2.28	2.2095

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Key Representative Rates

	Change
US dollar ...NIS 3.0120	+ 0.10%
Sterling .....NIS 4.5052	+ 0.32%
Mark .....NIS 1.8112	+ 0.04%

INT'L STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	3666.41	+27.37
DJ Transport	1593.7	+4.42
DJ Utils	183.56	+0.2
DJ Comp	1279.97	+5.6
NYSE Indstr	304.67	+1.91
NYSE Transport	242.93	+1.32
NYSE Comp	246.94	+1.61
NASDAQ Indstr	-	-
NASDAQ Transp	-	-
NASDAQ Utils	151.84	+0.09
NASDAQ Comp	-	-
S&P 100	413.49	+4.12
S&P Spot Index	448.01	+3.69
AMEX Comp	435.19	-0.23

NYSE stocks

	Unchanged	Advances	Declines
Share movements	+621	1311	869
Volume up (in 1000's)			174668
Volume down (in 1000's)			92803

Other stock market indexes

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3136.3	+38.5
Tokyo Nikkei average	19817.7	+130.6
Singapore all-share index	563.1	+5.09
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	8540.09	+118.39

Israeli stocks in NY

	Last	Change
NYSE / AMEX		
Am is Pep	45.5	0
Ampal A	8.875	-0.25
Anyl	4	0
Biotech	3.03125	+0
Carmel Cont	9.25	+0
Electro Chem-Frutarom	3	0
Elscint	2.5	+0
Elz Leasd	10	+0.125
Elz Lisud A	8.75	0
Laser Indis C	7.125	-0.25
PEC	29	+0.125
Tadiran	26.125	+0.25
NASDAQ / over-the-counter		
Aladdin	6.25	+0
4D	5.875	-0.375
Ampal B.S	25	-0.5
BVR Tech	9.375	+0.375
Comverse Tech.	9.125	-0.5
Del. Sys	7.5	+0
ECI Tel	19	-0.125
Fibronetics	5.75	+0.375
Edu-Soft	9.75	-0.25
Electric Fuel	8.75	+0.375
EFRI	16.5	+0.75
Elbit	31.25	-2
Elscint	14.25	-0.875
Eshed Robotec	2.1875	0
M. Systems	8.25	+0
ISG	4	+0
Opgtek	10.375	+0
Health Tech	2.3125	+0
Idan	1	+0
IS	8.25	+0
Intelpharm	21.75	-0.5
Isramco	1.09375	-0.09375
Ituk	1.0625	+0
Koor Bond	99.5	0
Lannet	8.875	+0.25
Lanoptics	7.875	-0.625
Magal	6.375	+0
Medis-Al	6.125	+0.5
Magic	11.75	-0.5
Orbotech	9	+0.25
Osnap Tech	3.5	0
Radvi	5	+0
Robomatics	2.375	0
Sapiens	5	+0.25
Scitex	18.0625	+0.125
Silicon	4.75	+0
T.A.T. Technol	4	-0.25
Tiro Vit	5.375	+0
Teledata	13.75	+0
Telegraph	5.625	+0.1875
Teva	24.375	+1.5625
TVG	2.3125	-0.125

(All listings are closing quotes)

Source: CommStock Trading Ltd. (Date 10-MAY-94)

INT'L MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

		Last	Change
Pound:	spot	1.4886	-0.0067
	Jun.future (CME)	1.4868	-0.01
D-mark:	spot	1.673	+0.0183
	Jun.future (CME)	0.5965	-0.006
S-franc:	spot	1.433	+0.022
	Jun.future (CME)	0.6975	-0.0114
Yen:	spot	104.35	+1.55
	Jun.future (CME)	0.009574	-0.000188
CanDlr:	spot	1.378	-0.0037
	Jun.future (CME)	0.7255	+0.0029
AusDlr:	spot	0.7235	+0.0031
	Jun.future (CME)	0.7249	+0.0037
F-franc:	spot	5.734	+0.066
It Lire:	spot	1698	+19
Nig:	spot	1.8782	+0.0232
AusSng:	spot	11.73	+0.065
Rand:	spot	3.815	+0.01
ECU:	spot	1.1522	-0.0123
Bonds	future	103.125	+1.15125
S and P	future	445.95	+2.95

Libor rates

		Last	Change
Dollar	3 months	4.8125	0
Dollar	6 months	5.25	+0.0625
Dollar	12 months	5.8125	0
Sterling	3 months	5.25	0
Sterling	6 months	5.5	0
Sterling	12 months	6	-0.0625
S-franc	3 months	4	0
S-franc	6 months	4	0
S-franc	12 months	4	0
D-mark	3 months	5.1875	0
D-mark	6 months	5.0625	0
D-mark	12 months	5.0625	0
Yen	3 months	2.25	0
Yen	6 months	2.375	0
Yen	12 months	2.5625	0

(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

Source: CommStock Trading Ltd. (Date 10-MAY-94)

Foreign financial data courtesy of
CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds
34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem,
Tel. 02-244963, 03-5758826
Fax. 02-244876

Data communications and hardware maintenance by
ABA Computer Systems Ltd.
Tel. 02-611421, 660002

INT'L COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Jul) (CEC)	1208	-9
Coffee (May.) (CEC)	108.9	+0.5
Wheat (May.) (CBOT)	318.5	-3.25
Soybeans(May)(CBOT)	665	+1.5
Orange juice (May.(CEC)	91.8	-0.15
Crude oil light (Jun)(CEC)	17.22	-0.1

London commodities

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May.) (LCE)	897	+4
Coffee (May.) (LCE)	2005	+110
Wheat (May)(LCE)	114.25	-1
Brent crude oil (Jun)(PE)	1692	-19

Spot market metals (US)

	Last	Change
Gold: spot	379.05	-2.2
Silver: spot	5.29	-0.13

New York metal futures

	Last	Change
Gold (Jun)	378.8	-2.6
Silver (May.)	5.281	-0.128
Platinum (Jul.)	395.3	-5.6
Palladium (Jun.)	135.1	-2.9
High-grade copper (May.)	0.962	-0.016

London metal fixes

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	381.65	+0.25
Gold PM fix	380.15	-0.85
Silver fix	539.1	-0.4
Platinum PM fix	395.5	-1.65

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date'

(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

Source: CommStock Trading Ltd. (Date 10-MAY-94)

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Commercial Banks

Name	Price	%chg
FrstInW1	2225	-0.3
FrstInW2	7441	-5.0
General	12174	-0.3
IndDevDD		
IndDvPrD		
LeumiW1		
MercC	273	
DIHH	200297	-2.5
Trade	982	
TradeC	248	

Mortgage Banks & Finance

Name	Price	%chg
Adanim	409494	5.0
Carmel	822	
CarmCt1	385	
DevelMB	24578	-0.5
FirstMB	43365	
IndevMB	85841	
J IsmC	134.00	0.4
J IsmW	274	-1.1
JIsmEnt	449	-1.1
LeumiMBR	114118	
Mishkan	40754	
MishanC	191.00	-1.0
Mizrhi	16404	-1.3
TefahotB	195893	
TefahotR	198920	

Financial Institutions

Name	Price	%chg
Shikun	5042	

Insurance

Name	Price	%chg
Arawi	2686	
Avalon	1166	10.0
AvalonC	623	10.1
Bitan	391	1.0
ElanCt1	211	
Hadar1	1898	-2.0
Hadar5	1662	-2.0
HamaharonC	226	-3.2
Hamshmr1	2225	-2.5
HamshmrS	2043	
Menorah1	1497	-2.5
Menorah5	1422	-1.0
Phoenix1	4588	-0.2
Phoenix5	4187	-0.7
Shrr	778	
Zion5	11782	-9.5

Trade & Services

Name	Price	%chg
Assura	1391	-1.5
AssuraC1	288	-1.0
Barzn	3228	
BezekW2	303	-1.6
BndWrhC1	134.00	0.4
BndWrhC2	133.00	
BondWrh1 L	5305	-1.0
Clisy0.1	137960	
ClalCmpC	380	-5.0
ClalTrW5	825	
CorBeach	2825	
CoOp	1765	
Crystal	5131	
DanHotl	3035	
DCL	1212	-0.7
DCLW	720	
Elad	284	-0.4
Feldman	505	-1.9
GanHadar	327	
GanHadC	198.00	-0.5
GRegC2	228	
GramatC1	122.50	-0.4
GramatW2	162.50	
HGRC1	134.50	-2.9
HGRW1	421	-2.1
HGR1	1004	-2.2
Inigamel	5418	-4.0
Inigame5	4881	-7.0
Ical	3171	-0.5
Uris	1973	-5.0
Mafil	1310	
Medtech	1164	
MedtechW	1813	
MLLC1	248	-1.2
Ntzko	3085	
Rashel	258	-1.7
RashelC1	132.00	
Telem	6276	-0.3
TeemC1	256	
TeemC2		
Teleys	1864	
Topline	687	-1.3
YaadC1	136.50	-1.1
Yaama	1745	1.9
Yeud1	1128	
Yona	1059	-0.7

Industrials

Name	Price	%chg
AdamiC	161.00	-0.9
AckinC	402	-8.9
AdocomC2	141.50	-2.7
Alliance	2132	0.5
Alony	605	
AlonyW1	88.50	4.1
Alumot11L	14895	
Angel	14897	-1.9
Arpaman	1088	3.5
ArynC1	130.00	
Ashply	2878	
Ashplyc1	178.00	
AshplyW2	2335	
AshrmW1		
Ashtrom	478	-3.6
Atzmon	1054	
AtzmonW1	543	
Azimuth	932	-0.7
Belmon	690	
BoulosC1	239	3.9
Cables C2	373	3.5
CablesC3	130.50	-2.6
CablesW3	938	-0.5
Carelina	1464	1.0
Cargal	1618	
Castro	1569	-0.7
Chem	595	
ChemW1	150.50	
ClalSrC	372	
ClalSrG1	3135	
Clfnd Cb	209	-1.8
CyclotronW	12709	
Cyclone1	25077	1.0
Cyclone5	14240	
CyclonC1	187.00	
CyclonC2	211	
Dalvonn	174.00	
DalvonW2	2408	-3.0
Datron1	4242	
Decision	1141	-4.5
Degani1	1871	
Delta 1	2358	-3.0
Delta2	2288	-2.5
DuteksS	13165	
DubekR	13576	
EagleC	180.00	
EagleC2	45.00	
EagleW3	36.50	
Eagle1	82.00	
Edgar	544	
EdgarC2	133.50	-1.7
ElcanTec	168.00	
ElbitW1	27365	-5.0
ElcoInd	5802	-0.2
Elcomcs	2108	
ElcoW1	560	-0.2
Elco 0.5	9688	-0.2
ElscrG4	347	
ElscC	281	-0.4
EshdRstc	1212	0.7
Evrot	800	
Fenton5	3275	
Fenton1	3658	
FrschW1	4788	4.0
FrschW5	3971	
Fve J	936	
FrutarC1	163.00	
FrutarC2	170.50	-1.8
FrutarC3	114.00	
GiborW2	1043	-5.0
Golan	1606	4.0
HarmanIT	4636	10.0
HarmanS	4636	10.0
Hatshof1	613	2.7
Hatshof5	504	0.8
Hird	491	
Hofit	2727	-2.1
IsrCan1	2882	-5.0
Jet-ore	636	-0.9
Kedem	6991	
KedemrC2	180.00	
Keter	585	-0.7
KitanC1	138.50	-1.1
KosW1		
Kitil	2269	1.2
Liquid	4283	-5.0
Lodzia1	2332	
Lodzia4	1844	-2.0
LuhotGal	468	
MacPal	1084	
MacPalW1	253.00	-4.8
Magam	573	
Maromt1	2521	5.0
Maxime5	2186	
Mod Eden	1208	-0.5
Modpal	943	
Mossiot1	1000	-2.2
Mossiot5	952	-2.3
NegCarim	527	
Nehushtn1	1388	
Nehushtn5	1185	
Navlot	1043	-3.0
NevotdW1		
Nitzn1	2722	-2.0
NMC	553	-2.0
Oila	1285	-3.0
Ophir	368	
Orbit1	684	
Orlita	482	
PackerW2	16943	-2.0
Pargod	3894	0.5
PazChen	674	
Pita	1108	7.0
PolgatA	539	-2.2
PolgatC1	177.00	
PolgatW3	265	-1.9
Polygon	1271	
PolygonC	176.00	-1.1
PC3	1173	-5.3
Rafanaxt	1791	-2.5
RabanxW	880	-5.5
Sanitot1	1123	
Sano1	1888	-2.0
Sano5	1769	
Sefon	948	-1.0
Shoman	24054	
Spctrnx	710	
Stael	186.00	-0.5
Sunfrost	17855	
Tael	98467	
Tadiran	1358	
TadirC	286	
Tedea	1035	-0.5
Thr	1101	1.0
Tobee1	556	-5.0
Topper	444	-9.9
TATC1	370	-1.1
TAT1	1207	-1.0
Unitar1	1822	
Unitar5	849	
Vitalgo1	886	-2.0
Vulcan	372	8.1
VulcanC	172.00	
Wardmon	27092	
WardmW3	17028	1.0
YtongC2	450	
Zahavi	502	-0.2
Zilai1	1854	
Zilai5	1700	6.5
Zkit1	5268	
Zkit5	5083	-0.3
ZionOil1	2164	-1.2
Zoharind	1198	3.3

Property, Building & Agriculture

Name	Price	%chg
Alrov	2885	-2.5
AlrovC		
AlrovW1L	1778	
Arbitm	648	-1.8
Arbitm C1	177.50	-2.2
Arladam1	1332	-1.9
Ayalo	3218	-0.2
AyaloCt	252	
AyaloW2	1922	
AzorpC1	300	-2.0
AzorpW3	182.00	-4.0
AzorProp	767	-1.8
Barend1	2531	
BayndaS	36280	
BayndaC1	35500	
BerlYehKar	5946	
BerYeKrW1	2154	0.2
BerYherC	109.00	
DanKnar	2301	-1.8
DanKnarC	184.50	-3.1
Darad1	439	
Dunbar	8272	
DunbarCw	788	-1.0
Engel	1136	
GoldHous	224	
GldHousC	179.50	0.6
Hilan	748	-3.0
HilanW4	648	-1.1
Ispro	3341	
Isrsiom	2419	0.2
IsrsiomC	249	-2.0
IsrsiomW	2775	-2.0
IsrspC1	215	
IsrsecL5	8080	-0.7
Isrsi1	8511	-5.0
ICP5	28838	1.2
Joysour1	579	-0.2
JoysourW1	182.00	-2.9
LaskC1	139.00	-3.1
LasndaW1	182.00	-2.9
Lasrdck	710	-1.8
Lahds5	340	-2.3
Lumr1	9211	6.6
MalBusC		
MalBusC2	115.50	-2.1
MalBus1	1822	-2.3
MarLasC	222	-1.3
MarLasC2	126.50	
MarLasW3	794	-3.2
Mirrav	13019	
Mishmsal	2926	
MTM	4229	-0.2
NextAuto	1941	
PhOr	7098	0.3
RedSea	992	
RogovIn1L	1468	
RogovIn5	1405	
Rosm	1002	2.2
SaharHal		
Seadrn	454	-1.1
Shelbol	1108	3.3
Teshlav	1397	

Investment Companies

Name	Price	%chg
Ackers1	1607	-3.0
Ackers2	1561	-3.0
AfikrC	864	
Amps	239734	
Arad	11498	-1.3
Asr sC2	228	-2.1
ClalWt3	4447	
ClalIn	30185	-5.0
DanInvC	288	
Danbsr1	5194	0.5
Elron	5009	-1.9
Emah	5202	
EsgorC4	348	
EsraC1	856	0.5
Hiron5	10890	-1.5
IDLC6	220	-0.9
Karolin1	878	
KarolinS3		
Kisil	1286	
Magor1	3924	
Magor5	3585	-0.3
Mofet	1191	-5.0
OofC1	153.00	-2.9
OofW1	8202	
Ofer	27154	
Pirmal1	1704	
Rim1	1022	
Rim4	765	
SaharDev	3869	-1.0
Securits	4882	-2.3
SecuraC	143.00	-1.4
SecuraW	2098	-3.2
TeyoC	495	
TzorC1	180.00	-2.2
TzorSHmr	130.50	-1.9
TzorW3	110.00	0.5
Unco	7734	-0.2

Oil Exploration

Name	Price	%chg
JoelC1	197.50	-0.5
JoelC1A	204	7.5
MGIN1	21506	6.0

PARALLEL LIST Trade & Services

Name	Price	%chg
Adan	3594	5.3
AdanW1	3544	5.0
Comsec	761	-7.2
Dalin1	3280	2.2
Denel	1868	
Dorky	5997	0.5
Data	2769	
Elbtech	1170	
Greenbrg	1444	0.5
ELDCH01	952	1.0
Kled	308	
Kopel	827	3.0
KopelC1	181.50	
M2PK	895	-0.2
Nirum1	795	7.3
TrendLin	2488	-0.7

Property, Building

Name	Price	%chg
Adler	277	4.5
Casares1	12849	-0.2
Gazit	6281	-4.44
GazitW1	6827	-5.0
GazitC1	375	
Lesmch	384	
Lesmtn1	1149	-0.3
Mehoron	1198	-3.2
Or	2899	-1.0
Rassco	4485	-3.3
Scandia	13098	
ScandiaC	147.00	0.3
UnicornG3	147.50	
UnicornI	3898	
UnicornS	316	7.5
UnicorW3	209	0.3

Industrials

Name	Price	%chg
AdumimI	518	1.2
Ber—Tom1	3898	
Baruch1	2101	-4.0
Baruch5	1677	-4.8
Brosh1	826	
Dexter	4626	-2.5
Elbarn	435	-3.2
Gali	284	0.5
Hernan	3320	
Kadmany1	638	-2.0
King1	1199	
Lahish1	5673	
MenC1	180.00	0.6
Mien1	722	10.0
MLT	1733	-0.5
Neca	33808	-0.7
NecaG1	203	-0.5
Oholab	1085	
Orasit	998	
OrasC	139.00	3.0
OrdaProc	1357	
Pollak1	1806	7.3
Shidor	809	-0.5
Tasia	1702	0.5
TibnvG1		

Investment Companies

Name	Price	%chg
Binyan	225903	-5.0
Mivtza	220	
MivtzaG1		
Optima	881	-5.5
Regent1	486	
Ytasam	172.00	-3.4

Oil Exploration

Name	Price	%chg
DKGEn1	7784	4.8
Naphtha	38.10	0.3

Two-sided trading

	AFTERNOON Price	% Change	Volume Shares	MORNING Price	% Change	Volume Shares
Name						
Abjac	128.0		740000	127.5	-0.4	266437
Ackerlin	900	-3.0		900	-3.0	25001
Adacom	910	-4.5	46800	917	-3.8	55175
Afris 0.	487902	-1.5	84	482949	-2.5	25
Afrisr	455104	0.5	195	450576	-0.5	16
Agan	4512	-4.0	8000	4524	-3.7	9946
Agis	3655	-2.7	9600	3645	-3.0	35076
Aryt	1135	0.2	12000	1135	0.3	7331
Avner	24.2	-4.2	1520000	25.2	-0.4	1031136
Azorim	5191	-3.2	4500	5191	-3.2	9674
ALPM	13333	-1.7	2520	13289	-2.0	1427
Bezek	670	-0.2	329000	659	-1.9	57103
Boulo	369	0.7	36000	366		34146
Cables	2236	-1.5	15000	2242	-1.2	12753
Clal Com	40758	-2.0		40758	-2.0	524
Clal Ele	38684	-1.5	1140	38588	-2.2	5017
Clal Tra	1741	0.2	15600	1737		31884
Clal 10	10787	-1.2	9200	10787	-1.3	5194
Clalins	2025	1.0	22800	2000	-0.2	34372
Cldstr 5	3112	-0.2	700	3120		9087
Clinds	2053	-1.5	84000	2021	-3.0	65088
CohenDev	1265	0.2	9000	1262		7939
Danbar 5	3649	-2.2	3000	3593	-3.8	1100
Dead Sea	1408	1.0	68400	1391	-0.2	15955
Delek	8069	2.7	63900	7833	-0.3	5915
Discimr	24910	-1.0	11520	24785	-1.5	3599
Elbit	32556	-4.2	10440	32811	-3.5	5719
Elco	9194	-2.0	2750	9288	-1.0	1346
Elite 5	1551	-1.2	37500	1559	-0.8	24105
Elron	14784	-2.5	5550	14860	-2.0	5544
Evergr n	4846	-1.2	2000	4858	-1.0	4475
Export	2272	0.7	7000	2255		3701
Fibi	60898	-1.0	2200	60580	-1.5	1655
Frstintl1	41681	0.5	540	41474		812
Frstintr5	37985		900	37320	-1.8	1246
Frstintrom	890	-3.2	5000	890	-3.3	26401
Gahelet	13198	-1.7	750	13198	-1.7	2972
Granit	561	-0.5	40000	564		7647
Hapoalm	412	-1.7	85000	415	-1.0	214366
Hapoalm	14572	-0.2	13950	14426	-1.3	8049
IndBldg	498	-0.7	110000	491	-2.2	32836
IndDevBK	44673	-4.0		44673	-4.0	375
Isramco	26.2	-0.2	6640000	26.0	-1.1	2675699
IsrCorp1	41161	0.5	1080	40546	-1.0	200
IsrCorp5	35193	-1.0	1330	34659	-2.5	1543
IsChem	258		747000	256	-1.2	207135
IDB	1295	-1.2	163200	1285	-2.0	139155
IDBDev	71003	-0.2	1470	70469	-1.0	1146
ILDC	2453	-0.5	18900	2416	-2.0	17477
JEC	1906	-2.5	16500	1898	-3.0	21916
JOEL	402	-1.7	235000	402	-1.7	115881
Kardan5	865	2.0	55000	848		22461
Kitan	1123	-0.5	70000	1129		32721
Klill	2903	-2.5	2400	2903	-2.5	4714
Koor	23862	-0.5	10100	23424	-1.5	12210
Leumi	358	-0.5	804000	356	-1.1	570074
LeumiW2	35.6	-2.2	180000	35.6	-2.2	373534
Lifshiz1	435	0.2	10000	434		63646
Makhteh	1601	-1.7	36000	1587	-2.0	17733
Malibu5	1657	-1.7	12000	1653	-2.0	18853
Maman	852	-1.7	45000	852	-1.7	68862
Marit1	3878		37800	3878		17129
Mashov	1038	-3.0	11500	1038	-3.0	10534
Mehadrin	18601		120	18601		327
MeirEzra	8276	-2.2	6250	8297	-2.0	5621
Mivtsh	2412	-1.2	4000	2412	-1.3	4173
Multlock	2129	-3.0	9000	2129	-3.0	27627
MGN5	14977	-3.7	2340	15016	-3.5	2368
MLL1	889	-2.7	32500	891	-2.5	12776
NatoilDS	86.0	5.2	700000	84.0	3.1	143786
Ocif	13516	-0.2	600	13516	-0.3	1751
Ormat	1204	-0.2	52200	1186	-1.7	25248
Osem	1930	3.0	164400	1869	-0.3	54439
OsemW1	494			494		
PazoilEx	348	-1.0	70000	350	-0.6	85782
Pecker	21581	-1.2	720	21645	-1.0	829
Pericias	2838	-1.2	6300	2838	-1.2	11382
Petrchem	811			811		70605
Piryon	24365	-0.5	810	24487		1140
PoalimW2	50.5	-9.5	1230000	53.0	-5.4	414343
PolgatB	553	-2.0		553	-2.0	22210
Poseidon	256	-1.7	16000	266	-1.8	20212
Rogosin	5223	3.7	34500	5160	2.5	21333
SelaPump	252	1.2	470000	249		200581
SuperslB	6224	-1.5	14400	6193	-2.0	7358
Tamboue	873	-4.0	22500	886	-2.5	12637
Tempo1	2243	-2.2	3600	2232	-2.7	12395
Teva	71895	-1.2	25860	72805		
TevaC	403	-1.7	324500	410		
Tibnveal	1085	0.2	18000	1082		12132
TAT5	951	-2.0	47500	946	-2.5	67349
Urdan 0.	465		40500	465		44067
Yaad	1586	1.2	20400	1568		8015
Ytong	1054	-1.7	22000	1052	-2.0	11000

THE PEOPLE YOU CAN TALK TO.
SOURCE: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Name	Price	chg	Name	Price	chg	Name	Price	chg	Name	Price	chg	Name	Price	chg
NEW YORK			Chevron Corp	59.125	+0.5	Gerber Products	33.875	+0.125	Millipore	48.5	+0.125	Ryder System	23.25	+0
AMP Inc	65.75	+1.75	Cinquna Brands	13.5	-0.25	Gillette	85.875	-0.625	Mine Safety App	28.5	+0	Rymer Co	1.875	-0.25
AMR Corp	57.25	-1	Chrysler	44.125	+1.25	Glaxo ADR	17.25	+0.75	Minnesota Mine	50.375	+0.75			
ASA	42.625	-0.25	Chubb Corp	77.75	+0.375	Golden W Fnl	36.125	+0.25	Mitchell Energy	19	+0	SPS Technology	22.75	+0.125
Abbott Labs	28.375	+0.75	Citicorp	37.5	+0.375	Goodrich (BF)	45.625	-0.625	Mobil Corp	80	+1.25	Safeco Corp	54.375	+0.75
Acme Cleveland	12.25	+0	Clark Equipment	65.375	+1.5	Goodyear Tire	38	+0.125	Molex Inc	35	+1	Safety-Kleen	16	+0.25
Advanced Micro	25.25	+0.5	Cleveland Cliffs	25	-1	Grace (WR)	40.5	+0.75	Monarch Machr	18.375	+0	St Paul's Cos	78.125	-0.125
Aetna Life	54.125	+1	Clorox	49	-0.5	Grainger (WW)	62.25	+0.75	Monsanto	81.375	+0.125	Saleomon Inc	43.625	+0.125
Affiliated Publ	9.75	0	Coastal Corp	30.125	-0.75	Grt Atl Pac Tea	25.125	+0.5	Morgan (JP)	62.875	+0.625	San Diego Gas	19.375	-0.5
Aflac	30.875	+0.5	Coca Cola	39.75	+0.25	Grt Western Fnl	15.875	+0.5	Morrison-Knuden	21.625	+0	Santa Fe S Pacf	21.625	+0.25
Ahmanson (HF)	18.5	+0.75	Coca Cola Ent	16.625	+0.25	Grow Group	15.75	+0	Morton Intl	31.25	-0.625	Sara Lee Corp	21.875	+0.625
Air Prods	40.5	-0.5	Colgate Palmolv	66.5	+0.5				Motorola Inc	44.25	+0.625	Saxcorp	14.625	-0.125
Alberto-Culv B	20.5	-0.125	Commcast Corp A	16.875	-0.3125	Halliburton	30.125	+0.25	Multimedia Inc	29.5	+0	Schering Pl

Bundesbank may cut discount as repo falls

FRANKFURT (Reuter) – Germany's Bundesbank sanctioned another small cut in a key money market rate yesterday, and economists expected the move to be backed by a cut in the more important discount rate either today or later this month.

The Bundesbank allowed its securities repurchase rate, or repo rate, to drop to 5.35 percent from 5.41% last week, the latest in a series of similar-sized weekly cuts.

Analysts said the central bank was clearly paving the way for a new cut in its 5% discount rate, which usually forms the floor for money market rates. But opinions were divided on whether this week was the right time for the move.

For Norbert Braems at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, a cut in the 5% rate today is all but certain. He cited comments by Bundesbank board members last week which played down the medium-term significance of bloated money supply growth and said a weak dollar could hurt the German economy.

The Bundesbank and some 16 other central banks plowed into currency markets last week to give the dollar support.

"If you take all of this together only one option seems possible – a rate cut," Braems said. "I believe we will see a cut tomorrow, possibly of 1/2 point."

The Bundesbank last cut its discount and Lombard rates by 1/4 point each to 5.0% 6.5% respectively on April 15.

But other analysts believe the Bundesbank will wait for fresh news on its two main indicators – inflation and M3 money supply – before cutting its leading rates for the 11th time this cycle.

Final data published yesterday for April annual inflation and March M3 growth showed a positive downward revision on the inflation figure to 3.1% from 3.2%, but a small rise in annualized M3 growth to 15.4% from 15.2%.

M3 – bloated by special factors which have prompted investors to hold high liquidity positions – is already far beyond a 6% target ceiling and analysts are waiting to see just how temporary these special factors will prove.

New figures are likely to be released before the next central bank council meeting on May 26.

"I think the continued problems surrounding M3 and the fact that inflation is showing relatively little progress means the Bundesbank will be hesitant to act," said Bank in Liechtenstein chief economist Wolfgang Leoni.

"I would not rule out that a step could come in May," he said, adding that the Bundesbank still has room to allow its 5.35% repo rate to ease further in the next two weeks.

Commerzbank economist Juergen Pfister also said he does not expect any change in credit policy at this week's meeting.

But speculation remained in German financial markets, with some traders noting they had been caught out several times in the past by the argument that the Bundesbank would wait for more data before moving on rates.

Among German bond traders, few are prepared to rule out a move, while around half of the share traders contacted are expecting some action.

"For me the main argument against a cut this week is that there is so much speculation that a rate cut will come," one money market trader said. "The Bundesbank never likes to pander to markets.

BBC TV gets commercial partner for int'l ventures

LONDON (AP) – The BBC is joining forces with media company Pearson PLC to set up commercial television ventures in Europe, Asia, and the Americas, the companies announced yesterday.

They hope to launch their new global alliance before year's end with two commercial European channels, one featuring entertainment and the other featuring news and information.

The BBC and Pearson hope to attract a third partner to share in the costs, estimated at £30 million. If not, Pearson will put up all of the cash.

The BBC will invest no cash, but it is putting up its recognition as "the world's most powerful broadcast brand," and hopes the partnership will ease the burden on British television owners, who each pay a yearly TV license fee of £84.50 to fund the British Broadcasting Corp.

The companies hope to move into the other global markets later, but top executives declined during a news conference to offer any specifics about when the ventures would begin or who potential third partners might be.

BBC director-general John Birt later disputed the suggestion that the alliance with Pearson could be the first step toward the BBC going totally commercial.

"It's a question of exploiting our assets," Birt said, adding that there will be a strong division between programming funded from the television license fees and the new international commercial operations.

The government's long-range intentions for funding of the BBC will be made public in a report due out later this year.

Shares in Pearson, which owns such media properties as the *Financial Times*, Penguin, and Thames Television, rose by about 4% in early trading on the London Stock Exchange.

Britain now a fast-food, wine-drinking society

LONDON (Reuter) – Britain has become a fast-food, convenience society in the last 20 years, with its population forced to become more self-reliant, a survey of consumer habits said.

The survey, to be released today by the private market research group Mintel, revealed a society owning more cars, drinking more wine, and taking more holidays, but consumer confidence still suffering the after-effects of the recent recession.

Overall the survey shows that since 1977 there has been an 8% drop in personal spending on goods such as food and alcohol, with an equivalent rise in expenditure on services, mainly in the leisure and financial products sector.

The report, aimed at helping companies pinpoint future markets for their goods, predicted that a rise in the numbers of women working, later marriages and higher divorce rates would lead to more numerous, but smaller, households.

It advised companies to target cash-rich "empty nesters" – middle-aged couples whose children have left home and have money and time to spend on foreign holidays and leisure products.

Mintel painted a picture of a society eating in "cafeteria kitchens" in the home, having abandoned formal meal times in favor of snack food and TV dinners. Britons also prefer one-stop shopping, and want to drive to their store, it said.

More than 70% of adults bought takeaway meals in 1993, compared to 44% in 1975, a rise that shows no sign of slowing, according to Mintel.

Changes in the political environment have led to a growth in the demand for securer personal pensions and health services, as individuals have been encouraged, or even forced to drop expectations that the state will provide, said Mintel's consumer research manager Angela Hughes.

Britons were leaving home, taking out mortgages and buying cars at ever younger ages, the report said, but economic recession in the late 1980s braked such trends. Young people were forced to stay with their families or even return home after university or college as job opportunities were squeezed.

Recent economic improvement is only just beginning to raise consumer confidence, it said, with pent-up demand being released first in the leisure industry.

Mintel picked out the traditional British pub as the place where less money might be spent in the future, with demographic changes meaning there will be fewer wealthy young people whose favorite leisure activity is sitting on a bar stool.

Toilet attendant John Dervan, 62, stands with his mop and bucket outside the public toilet in Westbourne Grove, west London. The toilet was named 'Building of the Year' by the Royal Fine Arts Commission. (AP)

WORLD BRIEFS

BSN changes name to Danone: France's food giant BSN said yesterday it will change its name to Danone, its leading yoghurt brand, and buy Spanish brewer San Miguel.

The expansion into the beer business will cost BSN FR 1.9 billion over four years and make BSN's Mahou unit Spain's leading brewer with output of over 7.5 million hectoliters a year, chairman Antoine Riboud told reporters.

BSN already holds a 24% stake in San Miguel and also produces the well-known beers Kronenbourg, Kanterbrau, and 1664. *Reuter*

Degussa profit up 58%: German chemicals and metals group Degussa AG yesterday posted a 58% rise in group pre-tax profit for the first half of its business year, as foreign earnings improved.

Rising sales and results were registered in North America and Asia, but also in some European countries in the first half, Degussa said. "In Germany, on the other hand, there was still no evidence of a significant improvement," it said.

Group pre-tax profit for the six months to March 31 rose to DM 121m. from DM 77m., on sales of DM 7.15b., up from DM 7b. At the parent level, pre-tax profit climbed to DM 51m. from DM 41m.

In its first-half report, Degussa said it expected profits to grow more slowly in the second half of its 1993/94 business year ending September 30. Reuter

Two British retailers sell 40 stores: Two of Britain's leading retailers on yesterday made long-awaited changes to their loss-making Do It All home improvement chain.

W.H. Smith Group Plc said it and Boots Co Plc had reached agreement to sell off 40 stores.

Sixty more stores are scheduled for disposal, leaving a portfolio of about 140 stores, "all well sited and in good catchment areas," said W.H. Smith in a statement

As a result W.H. Smith said it would make an exceptional provision of around £60m., net of tax, in the Do It All accounts for the year to end February 1994, to cover the costs of the disposal program and write offs. It is expected the provision will be split equally between Boots and W.H. Smith. *Reuter*

Siemens rebuffs Slovak bribery charges: The German engineering conglomerate Siemens AG yesterday denied public charges that it had paid a $5m. bribe to Slovakian Deputy Premier Roman Kovac to win a contract for the sale of medical equipment.

"These allegations are totally without basis," a Siemens spokesman said. "The name of our company is being dragged into a political fight."

Former Slovak prime minister Vladimir Meciar has leveled a string of allegations, the latest in a televised debate on Sunday, that Siemens bribed Kovac to win the contract. Kovac has denied the allegations. *Reuter*

Roche sees higher 1994 profit: Swiss pharmaceuticals group Roche Holding AG yesterday confidently forecast another year of growing profits despite a multi-billion dollar bid to take over US drug firm Syntex Corp.

Company president Fritz Gerber told a news conference that Roche would remain true to its past strategy of focusing on research which leads to unique and profitable drugs. *Reuter*

British chain sees no end to price war: Britain's leading discount food chain Kwik Save Group Plc said yesterday its half year profits rose 7% to £65.4m., but saw no end to the price war squeezing supermarket profits.

Kwik Save, which has 838 stores around Britain and plans to open 80 more this year, said the battle for market share showed no signs of abating. *Reuter*

LOT signs initial deal with AMR: Poland's state-owned LOT airline yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding with AMR Corp.'s American Airlines which should pave the way to wide cooperation between the two, LOT's president said.

"This memorandum is the first step towards detailed agreements which will regulate our cooperation in the years to come," Jan Litwinski said. *Reuter*

Saudi Arabia awards AT&T $4b. contract

WASHINGTON – After an intense campaign by AT&T Corp. and the Clinton administration, Saudi Arabia Monday awarded AT&T a $4 billion contract to modernize the country's telecommunications system. It is the largest telecommunications equipment contract awarded outside the US, AT&T said.

Saudi Arabia's decision last year to spend billions on a state-of-the-art national system, which will include fiber-optic lines and a wireless phone system, set off an intense struggle among the world's major manufacturers of telecommunications equipment.

AT&T beat out aggressive bids by Siemens AG of Germany, Alcatel Alsthom SA of France, Northern Telecom Ltd. of Canada, and a joint offer from LM Ericsson of Sweden and NEC Corp. of Japan.

AT&T executives said the Clinton administration played an important role in winning the contract.

Commerce Secretary Ron Brown pleaded AT&T's case with Saudi officials on two trips over the past year, according to AT&T officials. Secretary of State Warren Christopher also spoke to Saudi officials about the project during a recent trip.

The Saudi victory was the second large overseas award for AT&T in recent weeks. Two weeks ago, China signed telecommunications equipment contracts expected to produce more than $500 million in revenue for AT&T.

Under the Saudi contract, AT&T will build a fiber-optic network that will use the "digital" technology of computers to provide advanced phone service to about 1.5 million subscribers. The new system will allow Saudi Arabia to almost double the number of phone subscribers among its 16 million people, said Dan Hesse, president of AT&T's Network Systems International, which is based in the Netherlands.

In addition, the contract includes the construction of a digital wireless network capable of handling about 200,000 customers.

The entire project is expected to take about seven years to complete, Hesse said.

An AT&T spokesman said it was unclear what impact the additional business would have on employment at AT&T, which announced earlier this year it would phase out 15,000 jobs in another part of its business – its long-distance service. (The Washington Post)

SmithKline Beecham to sell generic Tagamet

PHILADELPHIA (Reuter) – SmithKline Beecham Corp. said yesterday it will make available in the US a generic form of Tagamet, just days before the US patent for its billion dollar ulcer treating drug is to expire.

SmithKline said the product will be manufactured under the label of its wholly-owned subsidiary, Penn Labs Inc.

Penn Labs will supply generic cimetidine, the active component of Tagamet, to Lederle Standard Products, a unit of American Cyanamid Co. and will also supply generic cimetidine under its own label.

The US patent on Tagamet, one of the most successful prescription drugs in history, is to expire on May 17.

It said Lederle has special strengths in distributing to wholesalers and to chain and independent drug stores while Penn Labs will take advantage of SmithKline Beecham's marketing to hospitals and managed-care organizations.

"With the US patent on Tagamet soon to expire, our corporate strategy continues to emphasize maintaining the steady flow of new SmithKline Beecham pharmaceutical products," said Jerry Karabelas, President of SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals.

"We expect Penn Labs to become an important supplier of generic cimetidine through SB and through Lederle, which has a record of success in distributing generic drugs through retail channels."

SmithKline's shares rose 62.5 cents to $30.125 in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Zurich Insurance posts 24.8% profit rise

ZURICH (Reuter) – Zurich Insurance Co, Switzerland's largest insurer and one of the largest in the world, reported a 24.8% rise in 1993 group net profits to SFr613.2 million ($431.4 million) from SFr491.4m. ($346m.).

The company also raised its dividend to SFr20 ($14.07) per share from SFr17.50 ($12.31) per registered and bearer share paid on 1992 results. Premium revenue for the group rose to SFr24.9 billion ($17.5billion) from SFr21.5b. ($15.1b.) in 1993.

Zurich Insurance said the growth in 1993 was due largely to acquisitions and to the inclusion of additional companies in its consolidated accounts.

Paramount's new moneyman makes his presence felt

HOLLYWOOD – Surrounded by translucent turquoise waters and virtually cut off from the world of Hollywood, Paramount Pictures Chairman Sherry Lansing and her director husband, William Friedkin, were vacationing on the Caribbean island of Mustique when the urgent phone call came.

For three days, Lansing's corporate boss, Jonathan Dolgen, had been holed up in London trying to hammer out a deal to bring actor Michael Douglas' production company to the studio's Hollywood lot.

Disney and Warner Bros. were also aggressively vying for Douglas and his new producing partner Steven Reuther to set up shop under their banners.

After marathon negotiations, Dolgen had the financial aspects of the deal nailed down, but told Lansing over the phone that she had to immediately fly to New York to work out the creative aspects of the arrangement with Douglas.

"But all I have are a pair of shorts and bathing suit!" said Lansing, as waves lapped in the distance. Scrounging up a pair of jeans, she rushed for a plane.

As Lansing walked into the elegant dining room of the Carlyle Hotel in Manhattan on May 1, Douglas took one look at her and quipped, "What is this? The head of Paramount Pictures is coming into the Carlyle's dining room wearing blue jeans?"

Sharing a laugh, the longtime friends who had collaborated on such films as *Fatal Attraction* and *Black Rain* then got down to business.

The Douglas deal couldn't have come at a better time for Paramount. For months, it had struggled to get movies made while an air of uncertainty hung over the studio because of a corporate merger battle being waged on Wall Street. All Hollywood wondered who would take control of the parent corporation – Sumner Redstone's Viacom Inc. or Barry Diller's QVC Network? Redstone finally won.

Now, there is a new corporate ownership in New York, and Dolgen has been brought in to oversee movies and television as chairman of Viacom Entertainment Group. Dolgen's role involves signing off on Paramount budgets and helping line up financing for co-productions, while Lansing retains authority to pick the movies the studio will make.

A former Sony Pictures Entertainment executive, Dolgen was installed only five weeks ago as head of newly created Viacom Entertainment Group. He came to Paramount with a reputation as a fiscal hawk – although while at Sony he pulled off some big-number production deals with director James Brooks and actor Damon Wayans.

Still, his hiring by Paramount prompted speculation that he would aggressively slash costs and make sweeping changes in the studio hierarchy.

While the costs to Paramount of the Douglas/Reuther deal have not been disclosed, the deal itself has been well received by the film community. Douglas and Reuther are reportedly in the midst of lining up independent production coin from foreign sources for the venture, while Paramount will presumably be responsible for marketing/distribution and other costs.

"We don't know how much of the kingdom they had to give away to get that deal," said entertainment attorney David Colden, "but, nonetheless, in terms of visibility to the film community and in terms of reducing their downside risks, my suspicions are it's a fairly favorable deal."

"I think when you hire Jonathan Dolgen, you send a signal," said one agent. "He knows what his mandate was and he's going to take some dramatic steps to put his imprimatur on the state of being of Paramount.

"When's the midnight massacre?" the agent then quipped.

Asked whether Paramount was in for massive cuts, Dolgen declined to get specific but said every company must look for ways to "run our business as sensibly as we can." However, he strongly denied rumors that any high-level staff shake-up was in the works.

"There is no bloodletting," Dolgen said. "We're just going to try and marshal our assets to run our business as sensibly as we can and move forward."

Rumors of a bloodletting began almost from the day Dolgen arrived. Seeking an office as large as Lansing's, he demanded that distribution chief Barry London and production head John Goldwyn relocate.

Dolgen then turned Goldwyn's office into a conference room, and London was sent to Dressing Room Building 100 so that Dolgen could have an office and conference room.

But London, who has held his post or variations of it since 1984, is said to have plunged into a funk after the move. Sources said London has been going through "a kind of midlife crisis, where he was seeing too much turmoil in the company" and for a long time has considered relinquishing his studio executive stripes to become a producer.

"Barry, who always needs human contact, spun out over all this, and it created sort of a dark malaise over all the company because he wasn't being wooed or comforted," said one source.

Goldwyn, at least, remained in the Administration Building, just down the hall from Dolgen. But in what some consider a face-saving move, the production president wants to tear down the wall to an adjacent business affairs office. Goldwyn claims it is simply a move to create additional file space.

Some also saw signs of pending changes when Lansing tossed a party for London on March 29, his 23rd anniversary with the studio.

London had been called into a conference room ostensibly for a meeting and was surprised to find a cake and champagne.

The party would have gone largely unnoticed had it been London's 20th or 25th anniversary, industry insiders said. But 23rd?

"It was strange," said one source, wondering if this was a send-off of some sort.

If all this speculation sounds a bit petty, it clearly underscores the ego-driven nature of what goes on in executive suites.

The combination of being ousted from their offices and London's odd 23rd anniversary party was enough to send tongues wagging, much to the displeasure of London and Goldwyn.

"I'm certainly not in a funk or a midlife crisis," protested London. But he added, "You reach points in your life where you have to reach certain decisions."

Adding to the already uncertain air and jittery nerves among Paramount insiders about potentially more executive changes in the production ranks, Goldwyn – who has been in his current post for years – says, "I've got some time on my contract."

He added, "Sherry and Jonathan have gone out of their way to embrace me."

A Paramount source said in fact Goldwyn has recently been offered a contract extension. He acknowledged that, in his position, there are always people gunning for his job. But how something as mundane as office space can trigger gossip is beyond him.

This summer could be a critical period for Paramount, which has a lot of money riding on several big $40 million-plus movies: *Beverly Hills Cop III*, starring Eddie Murphy; *Clear and Present Danger*, starring Harrison Ford; and *Forrest Gump*, starring Oscar-winner Tom Hanks.

There are especially high hopes for the $45 million *Forrest Gump*, directed by Robert Zemeckis, which, according to sources, has received the highest test scores in Paramount history. The movie, which has a lot of special effects and also stars Robin Wright, opens July 6.

Another possible sleeper for Paramount could be the TV-to-movie version of *Lassie*, a family movie whose trailer was very well received by exhibitors at the recent ShoWest convention in Las Vegas. (Los Angeles Times)

Bloom edges by German opponent

HEATHER CHAIT

GILAD Bloom endured a trying first round match yesterday in the Eisenberg Jerusalem Open, just wrenching victory away from Germany's Axel Finnberg in three sets.

Fellow Davis Cup player Eyal Erlich pulled off the surprise of the day by beating Germany's Michael Geserer 7-6, 7-6.

Top seed Bloom, whose ranking slipped this week from 143 to 183, unearthed his notorious fighting powers to win 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 against the world's No. 254 player.

After an assertive first set, Bloom began the second badly and his opponent was not slow to capitalize.

The last set saw Bloom's aggression come to the fore as he devoured every ball, moving agilely about the court and smashing volleys into unreachable corners.

The hopes pinned on 17-year-old Erlich, who paired Amos Mansdorf in the recent Davis Cup doubles tie against the Czech Republic, were rewarded yesterday. Qualifier Erlich uprooted his German opponent, who, at 196 in the world, is 445 places above Erlich's 196.

Bloom and Erlich are the surviving Israelis to enter today's second round after sixth seed Eyal Ran lost yesterday, joining Ofer Sela and Noam Behr who exited on Monday.

Ran (No. 185) never looked in form against Portugal's Joao Cunha-Silva (176), a veteran Davis Cup player, losing a marathon match 6-3, 1-6, 0-6.

In a match marked by baseline play and unforced errors by both players, Ran missed out on his chances at net, choosing to stay back and match the swarthy Cunha-Silva's demanding groundshots.

Other seeds to fall like dominoes were Mark Kaplan from the US, seeded third, who lost to Italy's Davide Sanguinetti 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 and fifth seed South Africa's David Nainkin who fell to qualifier Dick Norman of Belgium 7-6 (10/8), 6-1.

Yesterday's historic events in his homeland far south had their repercussions on second seed South Africa's Kevin Ullyett.

Dressed in colors distinctly similar to the new flag, Ullyett displayed a triumphant style at net to down Holland's Dennis Van Scheppingen 7-5, 6-2.

In today's second round play, starting at 2 pm, Bloom meets Patrick Baur while Erlich faces Cunha-Silver.

Rangers reach Eastern finals

NEW YORK (AP) – For the first time in eight years, the New York Rangers are in the league semifinals.

Brian Leetch set up New York's first three goals and scored the winner with 3:28 left Monday night, sending the Rangers to a 4-3 victory over the Washington Capitals. Mike Richter preserved the victory with 15 seconds left, stopping Kevin Hatcher's shot through a screen from the left circle.

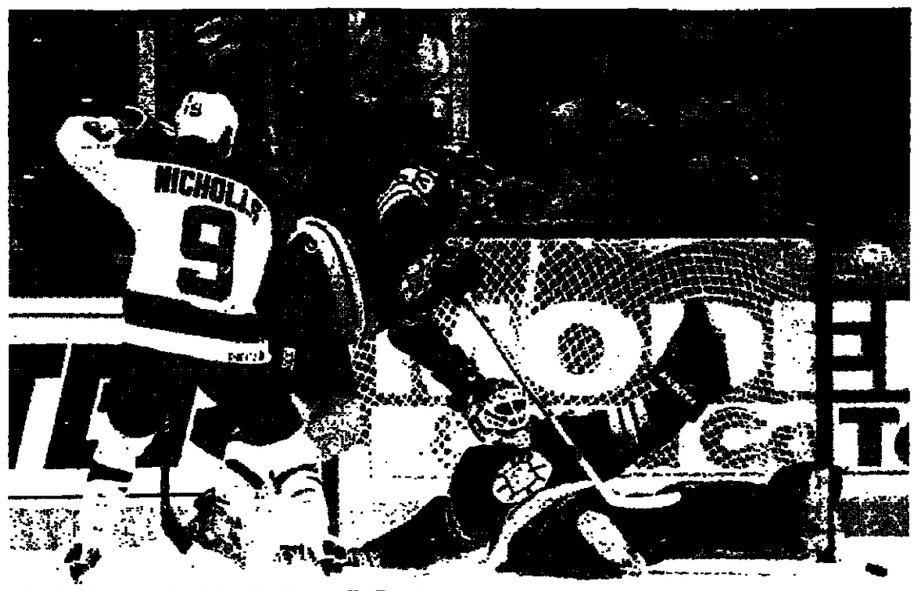
The Rangers won the series 4-1 and will play New Jersey or Boston in the Eastern Conference final. The Devils lead that series 3-2 after beating Boston 2-0 in the only other game Monday night.

Vancouver and Dallas were scheduled to play last night, with the Canucks leading 3-1. In the other conference semifinal, Toronto and San Jose also were set to play last night, with that series tied 2-2.

Adam Graves scored two goals and Esa Tikkanen had one for New York, all in the first period. Kevin Hatcher, Shawn Anderson and Sylvain Cote scored for Washington.

Leetch broke a 3-3 tie when he took a pass in the slot from Sergei Zubov, skated in and beat Rick Tabaracci with a forehand shot. It was the first goal scored against Tabaracci, who made 24 straight saves after relieving starter Don Beaupre.

New York hasn't been to a conference final since 1986, when the Rangers lost to Montreal.



NO PUCKS ALLOWED – Bruins goalie Jon Casey sprawls in front of the net to make the save while teammate Al Iafrate and the Devils' Bernie Nicholls look on. (AP)

Devils 2, Bruins 0

Martin Brodeur stopped 22 shots, making his coach's goaltending gamble pay off.

Corey Millen and Bob Carpenter scored in the second period as host New Jersey won its third straight after trailing 2-0. New Jersey can advance to the second conference final in its history by winning today at Boston or at home Friday night.

Instead of sticking with goaltender Chris Terreri – the winner of Games 3 and 4 – New Jersey coach Jacques Lemaire went back to the rookie and Brodeur came up with his first career playoff shutout. He had four point-blank stops, including two in close in the first period to keep the game scoreless.

Millen scored 1:23 into the second period. The Bruins never got the puck out of their zone and Carpenter got a loose puck near the end boards. He found Millen in the right faceoff circle, and Millen banked it off the goalpost past Bruins' goalie Jon Casey.

New Jersey got another goal with 22 seconds left in the second period when Bruins defenseman Ray Bourque tried to keep the puck in the Devils' zone and failed, sending Lemieux and Carpenter away on a 2-on-1.

Lemieux carried the puck into the Boston zone and sent a cross-ice pass that Carpenter one-timed between Casey's legs from the top of the right faceoff circle.

NHL Playoff Glance
Semifinals (Best of 7)

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Monday's results:
NY Rangers 4, Washington 3
Rangers win series 4-1
New Jersey 2, Boston 0
New Jersey leads series 3-2

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Toronto-San Jose tied 2-2
Vancouver leads Dallas 3-1

Yesterday's scheduled games:
Toronto at San Jose
Dallas at Vancouver
Today's games:
New Jersey at Boston

Lara hits third straight century

BIRMINGHAM (AP) – World record-breaking batsman Brian Lara scored his third century in a row – his second in the same game – to save his county, Warwickshire, from defeat by Leicestershire Monday.

The lefthander, who scored a Test record 375 for the West Indies against England three weeks ago, hit 22 fours in an innings of 120 not out. His is the first Warwickshire batsman to score centuries in his first three innings for the county.

His innings meant that Warwickshire, which was 61 for four chasing 285, held out at 206 for seven for a draw.

Lara's aggregate over his last four innings, including the Test record triple century, now is 748 runs at an average of 249.33.

He scored 147 for Warwickshire against Glamorgan on his county championship debut, then 106 in the first innings against Leicestershire.

"I'm feeling in great nick," Lara said after his latest century. "I know the bad times will come some time but I'm hoping to keep this run going as long as possible.

"This innings was a bit different to the other centuries in that I was concentrating for most of the time in trying to keep the strike and save the game.

"It's nice to be in the record books," Lara said. "There were a lot of expectations placed on me after the Test record and I hope I've not let people down so far."

Final Championship Table

	P	W	L	D	Bat.	Bl.	Pts.
Surrey	2	2	0	0	7	8	47
Essex	2	2	0	0	5	8	45
Leicestershire	2	1	0	1	8	8	32
Gloucestershire	2	1	0	1	3	8	27
Warwickshire	2	1	0	1	6	5	27
Durham	2	1	1	0	4	6	26
Nottinghamshire	1	1	0	0	0	4	20
Hampshire	2	0	1	1	5	4	9
Derbyshire	2	0	1	1	3	5	8
Northamptonshire	2	0	1	1	4	2	6
Glamorgan	2	0	1	1	3	2	5
Somerset	1	0	1	0	1	4	5
Worcestershire	1	0	1	0	1	4	5
Kent	1	0	1	0	0	4	4
Lancashire	1	0	1	0	0	4	4
Middlesex	1	0	0	1	0	3	3
Sussex	1	0	0	1	0	2	2
Yorkshire	1	0	0	1	2	0	2

Bonds hits third career grand slam

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) – Barry Bonds hit his third career grand slam in the third inning Monday as the San Francisco Giants overcame a team-record five homers by Colorado and beat the Rockies 12-5.

Bonds connected off Armando Reynoso (2-3) for his eighth homer of the season. Matt Williams added his major league-leading 14th homer in the sixth, a three-run drive off Marcus Moore. Williams, who added a sacrifice fly in the eighth for his fourth RBI, has eight homers in 15 games.

Colorado's homers all were solo drives. Ellis Burks, Andres Galarraga and Charlie Hayes connected off Bryan Hickerson (2-1). Roberto Mejia and pinch-hitter Howard Johnson hit consecutive homers off Rich Monteleone in the seventh.

Todd Benzinger homered for San Francisco in the seventh. The eight homers in the game were the most in the NL this year.

Reds 3, Padres 2

Cincinnati's Tom Browning fell to the ground after making a pitch in the sixth inning and was carried off the field on a stretcher. He sustained a fractured left humerus – the biggest bone between the elbow and shoulder – and was to spend the night at the Scripps Clinic for further observation.

With the bases loaded and a 0-1 count against Archi Cianfrocco, the left-hander made what seemed like a normal delivery. But the ball wobbled off well to the left of the plate and Browning collapsed, clutching at his arm.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Yankees 4, Indians 3

Jim Abbott (4-2), who no-hit Cleveland last September 4 when he last faced the Indians, gave up three runs and eight hits in 7⅔ innings and won his third consecutive decision. He struck out seven and walked two.

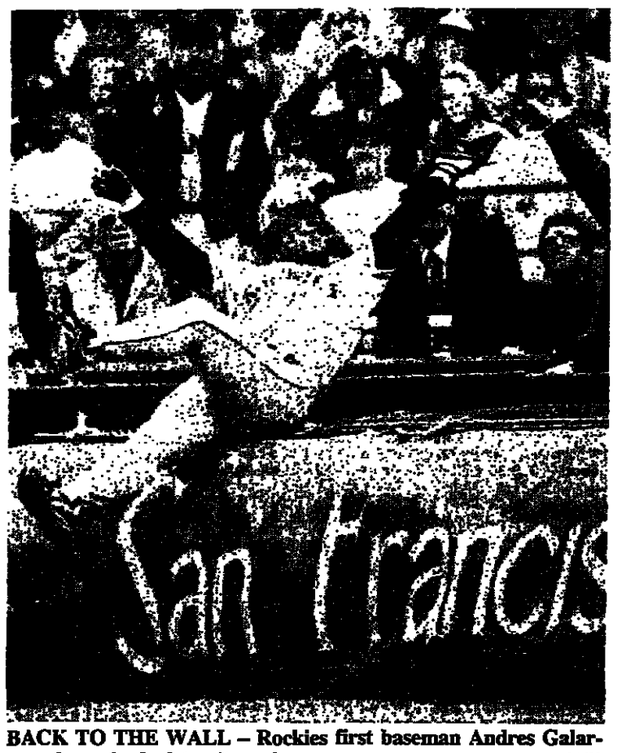
Pat Kelly hit a two-run double and Mike Gallego doubled twice as the Yankees won their fourth straight game. Xavier Hernandez pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Brewers 7, Red Sox 4

Mike Ignasiak, recalled from the minors earlier in the day, combined with Jesse Orosco to retire 16 straight batters and send host Boston to its season-high fourth straight loss.

Ignasiak (1-0), making his second major league start, allowed two runs and five hits and no walks in five innings. He retired the last 10 batters he faced, and Orosco set down the next six hitters.

Danny Darwin (5-2) allowed four runs and seven hits in the first three innings, then retired 10 in a row.



BACK TO THE WALL – Rockies first baseman Andres Galarraga leaps in foul territory for a pop-up. (AP)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	18	11	.633	–
Montreal	17	14	.548	2½
New York	17	14	.548	2½
Florida	17	15	.531	3
Philadelphia	12	19	.387	7½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	19	11	.633	–
Houston	17	13	.567	2
Pittsburgh	16	13	.552	2½
St. Louis	15	13	.536	3
Chicago	8	20	.286	10

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	17	15	.531	–
Los Angeles	14	17	.452	2½
Colorado	13	16	.448	2½
San Diego	10	20	.333	6

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	20	10	.667	–
Baltimore	19	10	.655	½
Boston	20	11	.645	½
Toronto	17	15	.531	4
Detroit	12	16	.429	7

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	16	14	.533	–
Milwaukee	16	14	.533	–
Kansas City	15	14	.517	½
Cleveland	14	14	.500	1
Minnesota	14	16	.438	3

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Texas	13	16	.448	–
Seattle	13	17	.433	½
California	13	20	.394	2
Oakland	8	22	.290	5

MONDAY'S NL RESULTS:
San Francisco 12, Colorado 5
Pittsburgh 9, Florida 5
New York 5, Montreal 4
Atlanta 7, Philadelphia 2
Chicago 6, St. Louis 3
Los Angeles 9, Houston 8
Cincinnati 3, San Diego 2

MONDAY'S AL RESULTS:
New York 4, Cleveland 3
Milwaukee 7, Boston 4
Seattle 3, Chicago 2
Minnesota 9, Kansas City 5
Baltimore 4, Toronto 1
Texas 11, California 3
Only games scheduled

Knicks learn 'respect' for Jordan-less Bulls

NEW YORK (AP) – Under normal circumstances, teams coming off three consecutive championships are considered favorites until someone knocks them off.

The retirement of Michael Jordan changed everything for the Chicago Bulls, who spent the entire season trying to prove he wasn't the only reason they won all those titles. They've done a pretty good job of it so far, winning just two fewer regular-season games than in 1992-93 and sweeping Cleveland in the first round of the NBA playoffs.

Then the swaggering New York Knicks came along, and the Bulls almost caught them resting on the laurels of beating Chicago three times in four meetings this season.

"We didn't respect them at first," Knicks guard John Starks said of the Bulls' 15-point lead that New York finally overcame for a 90-86 victory in the series opener Sunday. "We took this team for granted. But they showed us they want to hold on to those rings. They're going to come hard at us. They don't have that icon anymore, and we were overconfident because we beat them three out of four."

Knicks coach Pat Riley, who won four titles as coach of the Los Angeles Lakers, was surprised that anyone on the Knicks could have an overconfident attitude.

"We have no right to have anything but the greatest respect for them," Riley said Monday. "We have no room for any notion that we don't have to respect them. A lot of people seem to have the attitude that 'It's our turn' just because we've been through the playoffs with them for three years."

Riley resents talk that his team was lucky to win after trailing 67-52 with 3:15 left in the third quarter, or that the officials took the game away from the Bulls.

"We came back because of our effort and intensity, not luck. They blew a 15-point lead with 15 minutes to go. I don't think it had anything to do with the officials."

Patrick Ewing, who led the Knicks with 18 points and 12 rebounds, said lack of respect had nothing to do with the Knicks' slow start. "We just didn't come ready to play," he said. "We didn't do the job in the first three quarters."

NBA Playoff Glance
Semifinals (Best of 7)

EASTERN CONFERENCE
New York leads Chicago 1-0

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Phoenix leads Houston 1-0

No games Monday:
Yesterday's scheduled games:
East-Indiana at Atlanta
West-Denver at Utah
Today's games:
Chicago at New York
Phoenix at Houston

Trial in wake of soccer killing begins

CARDIFF, Wales (AP) – Two men accused of "the ultimate act of football hooliganism" went on trial yesterday charged with murdering an elderly soccer fan at a Wales World Cup qualifying game.

Welshmen Kerry Still, 35, and his brother Andrew McAllister, 31, are accused of launching a powerful marine distress rocket after the final whistle of the Wales-Romania match at Cardiff Arms Park on November 17.

Still, an electrician, and McAllister, a carpet fitter, have pleaded not guilty to the murder charge.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Finchem named to top golfing post

Tim Finchem, a White House adviser during the Carter Administration and the current deputy commissioner of the PGA Tour, will succeed Deane Beman as commissioner June 1.

Finchem was a unanimous choice of the Tour's Tournament Policy Board to succeed Beman, who announced March 1 that he would not seek another term for the post he has held for 20 years.

Girl hit by javelin

Sarah Miniman, a 17-year-old high school student, escaped serious injury Monday when struck in the left jaw by a javelin during track practice in Warren Township, New Jersey.

All-female baseball team takes on male All-Stars

FORT MILL, S.C. (AP) – When this baseball game was over, it was tough to tell the losers from the winners – even though the final score was 19-0.

The Colorado Silver Bullets proved Sunday that success doesn't always come on the field. They became the first all-female team in history to take on a professional men's team.

The outcome was never in doubt, as the Northern League All-Stars – whose roster included former major league stars Dennis "Oil Can" Boyd and Leon Durham – pounded out 21 hits against four Colorado pitchers.

Meanwhile, the Silver Bullets managed only two singles and committed six errors. But when it was over, no one seemed to pay too much attention to the statistics.

Many of the 8,179 fans who came to watch the Mother's Day matinee realized they were watching history being made. For some young fans, it was a watershed event.

"I think it gives young girls like me a chance to have role models," said 11-year-old Rachel Hedrick, who stayed to the end with her sister, Kristen, 15, and their father, David.

The game was not a pretty sight, given the Silver Bullets' six errors – four by shortstop Shae Sloan. Meanwhile, the All-Stars rapped out three home runs and eight doubles.

"I'm disappointed but not with the loss," said Silver Bullets manager Phil Niekro. "I am disappointed with the way we didn't catch the ball or throw the ball like we can today.

"We really had no place playing a team like that," he said. "But you've got to try. We can only go up from here."

Despite getting crushed by the All-Stars, the Colorado players were all smiles as they signed autographs and chatted with fans around their dugout after the blowout.

"This isn't a setback," said Silver Bullets pitcher Lisa Martinez, who was roughed up for seven unearned runs in 2⅔ innings. "It's better to start off poorly and get better, rather than to start off spectacularly and go down from there."

The opening pitch was thrown out by Jean Eastman, 69, who played in the All-American Women's Baseball League in the 1940s. The league was made famous by the hit movie *A League of Their Own*.

"I told the girls to just enjoy it," she said.

Things quickly went from good to bad to worse as the All-Stars scored eight runs in the first two innings. Six pitchers held the Silver Bullets to two singles while striking out 16.

The fans didn't seem to mind. They cheered loudly when Durham, who played for the Chicago Cubs, swung and missed a Lee Anne Ketcham fastball. But Durham would get his revenge – he later hit two long home runs that easily cleared the right field fence.

The crowd also cheered the opening single by Silver Bullets second baseman Michele McAnany and a clean single in the third by catcher Stacy Sunny.

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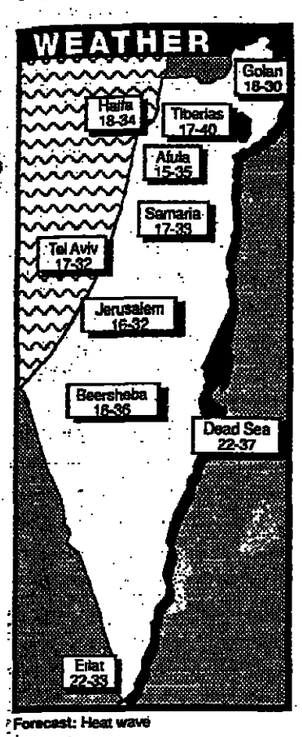

Forecast: Heat wave

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW C	LOW F	HIGH C	HIGH F	
Amsterdam	03	37	14	57	cloudy
Berlin	06	46	21	70	cloudy
Buenos Aires	06	46	16	61	clear
Cairo	19	66	34	93	clear
Chicago	05	42	21	70	cloudy
Copenhagen	07	45	20	68	clear
Frankfurt	10	50	16	61	cloudy
Geneva	07	44	19	66	rain
Helsinki	05	41	22	72	clear
Hong Kong	28	82	30	86	clear
Jo'burg	08	46	21	70	clear
Lisbon	10	50	18	64	cloudy
London	10	50	16	61	clear
Los Angeles	14	57	20	68	cloudy
Madrid	11	52	24	75	clear
Montreal	05	41	18	65	clear
Moscow	04	39	08	46	cloudy
New York	13	55	24	75	clear
Paris	07	45	21	70	p.cloudy
Rome	14	57	19	66	clear
Stockholm	15	59	20	68	clear

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EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdori, 706660; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 272315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 810108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282058.

Tel Aviv: Shlomo Hamelech, 78 Shlomo Hamelech, 5246461; Afarsemon, 5613010. Till 3 a.m. Friday: Ben-Yehuda, 142 Ben-Yehuda, 5223535. Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 6413736.

Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Shor-Tabachnik, 3 Netiv Ha'avot, Kfar Sava, 425850.

Netanya: Porat, 76 Petah Tikva, 340967.

Krayot area: Harman, 4 Simtat Modi'in, Kiryat Motzkin, 707770/3.

Haifa: Kupat Holim Maccabi, 6 Yalag, 351282.

Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.

Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 570468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (internal, pediatrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Shaare Zedek (obstetrics). In case of heart attack, attempted resuscitation, snake bite or scorpion sting, go immediately to nearest hospital.

Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics), Ichilov (surgery).

Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 100
FIRST AID 101

Magen David Adom

In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod* 551333	Karmiel* 988555
Ashkelon 551332	Kfar Sava* 03-8311111
Bat Yam* 5511111	Kiron 9311111
Beersheba* 274767	K. Shmona* 944334
Beit Shemesh 523133	Naharlya* 912333
Dan Region* 5783333	Netanya* 823333
Eilat* 372333	Petah Tikva* 9311111
Hadera* 09-623333	Rehovot* 451333
Haifa* 512233	Rishon* 9642333
Hamor* 920333	Safed 920333
Holon* 5511111	Tel Aviv* 5460111
Jerusalem* 528133	Tiberias* 790111

* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110

Eran—Emotional First Aid. Jerusalem 810303, Tel Aviv 5461111 (children/youth 5961113), Haifa 672222, Beersheba 881128, Netanya 625110, Karmiel 9888410, Kfar Sava 974555, Hadera 346789.

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 5234818, 5449191 (men), Jerusalem 514455, Haifa 660111, Eilat 31977.

The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-325747, for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Emergency dental clinic (24 hours) 02-632303.

FIRE 102
FLIGHTS

Airports Flight Information Service: Arrivals only, 03-9731111 (Hebrew), 03-3970000 (English)

CRITIC'S CHOICE

STREET THEATER

HELEN KAYE

SOME of the Diabolo Theater performers – the country's only professional street theater – left today for the Wroclaw Festival in Poland. Those who remain will perform their disco-beat *Techno* show of circus skills in Haifa's Dania park today at 4.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THE Israel Chamber Orchestra's family concerts series concludes this week with "The Sound of Winds," conducted and narrated by Menachem Nebenhaus. Today and tomorrow (5) at the Tel Aviv Museum.

Pianist Yahli Wagman is one of the few local musicians whose performances are always inspiring and thought-provoking. Tomorrow (4) at the YMCA Concert Hall in Jerusalem Wagman is the guest of the Voice of Music Etnahta series, performing and discussing Shostakovich's Opus 34 preludes.

Debbie Kleider-Broshi plays the bitchy best friend on the Channel 1 sitcom 'Straight and to the Point.' (Joel Fishman)

DANCE

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THE last two performances of the Spring-Loaded Dance Festival at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv take place this weekend. Friday (10) one can enjoy Arabic dance traditions in a special program presented by Yasmin Toyna and her ensemble and, in complete contrast, the Maya Arbatova classical ballet competition, Saturday (9), rounds up this month-long series of invigorating new works and performers. Tonight and tomorrow (8:30) there are two more programs featuring new works by up-and-coming choreographers.

TELEVISION

PENNY STARR

IT'S a good afternoon for kids of all ages. Linger for an hour in outer space with Captain Picard and the crew of the Starship Enterprise in *Star Trek – The Next Generation* at 2:05 on the New Channel 2. Or spend the hour with Babar the Elephant and Kevin Arnold. *Stories of King Babar* is on at 2, followed by *The Wonder Years* at 2:30, both on Channel 1's ETV. And don't forget *The Simpsons* at 4:30 on Channel 1.

For thousands of Israelis Wednesday night means *Straight and to the Point*, the locally made sitcom that is really funny, has believable characters which it develops, and has given us hope for the future of Israeli comedy scripts. It's on Channel 1 at 9.

Whatever you tune to, avoid the Family Channel's new action series *Acapulco Heat* at 10:55. Or watch it just this once to see how awful it is.

FILMS

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★★ **BLANC** – The middle film in Krzystzof Kieslowski's French flag-colored trilogy is a ruefully funny movie, the best so far by the director, whose new-found, easy touch corresponds powerfully to his old, dark obsessions. Having purged himself of *Blue*'s lofty operatics, Kieslowski has let down his moralizing guard. Now he can laugh a little, quip in his mother tongue and rest easy with open endings. (Polish and French dialogue. Hebrew and English subtitles. Not recommended for children.)

CINEMA

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE ☎ 724131 *Czech Film Month: Animation for Adults* **Long Live the Mouse** ☐ **Words, Words, Words** ★ **Oil Gazziers** ☐ **Little Sparrows** ☐ **The Probe** ☐ **Visit Prague** ☐ **Passion** ☐ **The Pied Piper** 7 ★ **Matti Mancuhulu** 9:30 ★ **Mon Oncle** 9:30 G.G. GIL **Jerusalem Mall (Malha)** ☎ 788448 **Intersection** 1:30, 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ **Schindler's List** 1:30, 5, 8:30 ★ **Fan Fan** 1:30, 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ **Pelican Brief** 11:30, 4:15, 7, 9:30 ★ **Fearless** ☐ **In the Name of the Father** 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:30 ★ **Baraka** 1:30, 4:30, 7, 9:30 ★ **On Deadly Ground** 1:30, 4:30, 7 JERUSALEM THEATER ☎ 617167 20 Marcus St. **Trois Couleurs Blanc** 7, 9:30 ★ **Farewell to My Concubine** 6, 9 ORION OR 1-6 ☎ 252914 4 Shamai St. **Belle Epoque** ☐ **Sister Act 2** ☐ **The Three Musketeers** 5, 7:15, 9:30 ★ **The Piano** ☐ **Naked** 5, 7, 9:15 RAV CHEN 1-7 ☎ 792799 **Credit Card Reservations** ☎ 794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot **My Father the Hero** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Tombstone** 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Little Buddha** 4:15, 7, 9:45 ★ **Malice** ☐ **The Good Son** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Remains of the Day** 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Short Cuts** 5:30, 9 ★ **Aristocats** *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 RON 1-2 ☎ 234704 1 Rabbi Akiva St. **Philidelphia** ☐ **Ma Saison Preseree** 5, 7:15, 9:30 TORAH OUTREACH PROGRAM ☎ 288968 **Follow Me - The Six Day War** 9, 11, 1, 3, 5

TEL AVIV
RAV-CHEN ☎ 5282288 Dizengoff Center **Tombstone** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **My Father the Hero** 11, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Malice** 11, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **The Good Son** 5, 9:45 ★ **Mrs. Doubtfire** 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **The House of Spirits** 7:15 CINEMATHEQUE 1–2 ☎ 6917181 2 Sprinzak St. **Orlando** 5:30, 7:45, 9:45 ★ **The Time of the Serpents** 7 ★ **Berlin die Sinfonie der Grosstadt** ☐ **Triadisches Ballet** 9:30 DEKEL ☎ 5443200 94 Yehuda Hamaccabi St. **Philadelphia** 7:30, 9:45 DIZENGOFF 1-3 ☎ 200485 Dizengoff Center **Trois Couleurs Blanc** 11, 1, 3, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **The Piano** 11, 1, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Reservoir Dogs** 1, 5:15, 9:45 ★ **Belle Epoque** 11, 3, 7:30 ★ **Trois Couleurs Bleu** 3 DRIVE-IN ☎ 6423080 **Striking Distance** 10 p.m. ★ **Sex Film** 12 midnight GAN HA'IR ☎ 5279228 71 Ibn Gabirol St. **In the Line of Fire** 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Indecent Proposal** 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 GAT° ☎ 6967888 26 Ibn Gabirol St. **Little Buddha** 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 GORDON ☎ 5236992 87 Ben Yehuda St. **The Unbelievable Truth** 8:30, 10 ★ **Trust** 8 HAKOLNOA ZOA HOUSE ☎ 6959341 26 Ibn Gabirol St. **Tales of a Golden Geisha** 5, 7:30, 9:45 G.G. HOD 1–4 ☎ 5228090 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. **Fearless** ☐ **Pelican Brief** 1:30, 4:45, 7:30, 10 ★ **Wayne's World 2** ☐ **Benny and Joon** 1:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 LEV 1-4 ☎ 5288288 **Naked** 12, 2:15, 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **One False Move** 5:15 ★ **Fan Fan** 12:15, 2, 5, 7:45, 10 ★ **Farewell to My Concubine** 11, 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:30 NEW MAXIM ☎ 5287457 48 King George St. **Age of Innocence** 7:30, 9:45 RAV-OR 1-5° ☎ 5102674 Opera House **Ma Saison Preseree** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Joy Luck Club** ☐ **Age of Innocence** ☐ **Remains of the Day** 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Short Cuts** 5:30, 9 G.G. SHAHAF 1-2 ☎ 5271645 Klkar Namir **Schindler's List** 5, 8:45 ★ **Pelican Brief** 5, 7:30, 10 G.G. TAYELET 1-3 ☎ 5177952 2 Yona Hanavi St., **In the Name of the Father** ☐ **Carlito's Way** ☐ **Perfect World** 5, 7:30, 10 G.G. TEL AVIV ☎ 5281181 65 Pinsker St. **On Deadly Ground** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Intersection** ☐ **In the Name of the Father** 5, 7:30, 10 TEL AVIV MUSEUM ☎ 8961297 27 Shaul Hamelech Boulevard **The Unbelievable Truth** 7:45, 10 ZAFON ☎ 5443966 18 Louis Marshall St. **Baraka** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ***Credit Card Reservations** ☎ 03-5252244

HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎ 325755 **Age of Innocence** 7 ★ **Farewell to my Concubine** 9 ★ **The Good Son** 9:15 ★ **The Piano** 7 CINEMATHEQUE ☎ 386245/383424 **Requiem for a Maiden** 6:30 ORLY **Philadelphia** 6:45, 9:15 RAV-GAT 1-2 ☎ 674311 **Tombstone** 4:30, 6:45, 9:15 ★ **My Father the Hero** 4:45, 7, 9:15 RAV-MOR 1-7 ☎ 416899/8 **Little Buddha** 6:30, 9:15 ★ **My Father the Hero** ☐ **Malice** ☐ **Sister Act 2** 4:45, 7, 9:15 ★ **Philadelphia** 4:30, 6:45, 9:15 ★ **Pelican Brief** 9:15 ★ **Short Cuts** 5:30, 9 ★ **Tombstone** 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 ★ **The Good Son** 4:45, 7 RAV-OR 1-3 ☎ 246553 **Aristocats** *(Hebrew dialogue)* 4:45 ★ **Little Buddha** 6:30, 9:15 ★ **Ma Saison Preseree** 4:45, 7, 9:15

ASHDOD
G.G. GIL **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **Intersection** ☐ **On Deadly Ground** ☐ **The Good Son** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 4:45, 7:15, 10 RON **Heaven and Earth** 7:30, 10 ★ **Belle Epoque** 7:30, 10

ASHKELON
RAV CHEN 1-5 ☎ 711223 **Little Buddha** 4:15, 7, 9:45 ★ **Malice** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Schindler's List** 5:30, 9 ★ **My Father the Hero** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Tombstone** 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

BAT YAM
RAV CHEN ☎ 5531077 **My Father the Hero** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Schindler's List** 5:30, 9 ★ **Malice** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Tombstone** ☐ **Philadelphia** 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Intersection** 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Little Buddha** 4:15, 7, 9:45

BEERSHEBA
G.G. ESHEL ☎ 274073 **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 RAV-NEGEV 1-4 ☎ 235278 **Malice** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Tombnstone** ☐ **Philadelphia** 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Short Cuts** 5:30, 9 ★ **Aristocats** *(Hebrew dialogue)* ☐ **Surf Ninjas** 11 a.m.

DIMONA
MOFET **Pelican Brief** 8:30

HADERA
LEV **Schindler's List** 5:15, 9 ★ **Remains of the Day** 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Look Who's Talking Now** weekdays 5 ★ **Fan Fan** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Intersection** 5, 7:30, 9:30

HERZLIYA
ACCADIA CINEMA CLUB ☎ 557799 **Pelican Brief** 7, 9:45 COLONY CINEMA 1-2 (MANDARIN) ☎ 6902666 **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **Remains of the Day** 5, 7:30, 10 DANIEL **Trois Couleurs Blanc** 7:15, 9:30 STAR ☎ 589068 29 Sokolow St. **Intersection** 9:45 ★ **Little Buddha** 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Cool Running** 5 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:45 ★ **Striking Distance** 5, 7:30

KARMIEL
CINEMA 1–3 ☎ 887277 **The Piano** ☐ **My Father the Hero** 7, 9:30 ★ **Pelican Brief** 6:45, 9:30

KFAR SAVA
G.G. GIL **In the Name of the Father** 4:45, 7:15, 10 ★ **Kika** ☐ **Intersection** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Naked Gun** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **Malice** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Fearless**, 4:45, 7:20, 10

KIRYAT BIALIK
KIRYON **In the Name of the Father** ☐ **Bleeding Romeo** ☐ **Pelican Brief** ☐ **Remains of the Day** ☐ **Trois Couleurs Blanc** 7, 9:30 ★ **Naked Gun** 4:45, 7, 9:30 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 9:15 ★ **Intersection** 7, 9:30 ★ **Addams Family Values** ☐ **Mrs. Spitfire** ☐ **Wayne's World** ☐ **Look Who's Talking Now** 4:45 ★ **Jungle Book** 4:45 ★ **The Secret Garden** 4:45 ★ **Sister Act 2** 4:45

KIRYAT MALACHI
HAKIRYA **Sister Act 2** 7:30, 9:30 ★ **Robin Hood** Tue., Wed., 5

MIGDAL HA'EMEK
RAV-CHEN **The Piano** ☐ **Naked Gun** ☐ **Intersection** 7, 9:30

NESS ZIONA
G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 404729 **Naked Gun** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Intersection**, 8, 10, 12:15; 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 4:30, 7:15, 10

NETANYA
G.G. GIL 1-5 ☎ 628452 **Intersection** ☐ **Naked Gun** ☐ **Bleeding Romeo** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 4:45, 7:15, 10 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **On Deadly Ground** 5, 7:30, 10 RAV-CHEN 1-4 ☎ 618570 **Tombstone** ☐ **Shadow Lands** 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Malice** 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Philadelphia** 4:50, 7:25, 9:55 ★ **Malice** 5, 7:30, 9:50

PETAH TIKVA
G.G. HECHAL 1-3 ☎ 9300844 **Intersection** ☐ **Naked Gun** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 4:45, 7:15, 10 G. G. RAM 1-3 ☎ 9340818 **Remains of the Day** 4:45, 7:15, 10 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **Intersection** 5, 7:15, 9:45

RA'ANANA
MOFET **Belle Epoque** 8:30 PARK **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **Malice** ☐ **My Father the Hero** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Naked Gun** 5, 7:15, 9:30 ★ **Philadelphia** 5, 7:30, 9:50

RAMAT GAN
RAV-GAN 1-4 ☎ 797121 **Credit card reservations: ☎ (03) 5252244 Schindler's List** 5:30, 9 ★ **Remains of the Day** 7:15 ★ **The Good Son** 9:45 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 4:30, 7, 9:45 ★ **My Father the Hero** 5, 7:30, 9:45 ★ **Aristocats** *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 RAV-OASIS 1-3 ☎ 6730687 **Naked Gun** ☐ **Malice** 5, 7:30, 9:50 ★ **Tombstone** 4:45, 7:25, 9:55

RAMAT HASHARON
KOKHAV **Adams Family Values** 7, 9:30

REHOVOT
CHEN 1–4 ☎ 465979 **Schindler's List** 5:45, 9:15 ★ **Remains of the Day** 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Trois Couleurs Blanc** 7:30, 9:505 ★ **Remains of the Day** 7:30, 9:50

RISHON LEZION
RAV-CHEN 1–4 ☎ 9670503/7 **Shadowlands** 4:45, 7:20, 9:50 ★ **Philadelphia** ☐ **Malice** 4:45, 7:15, 9:55 ★ **Tombstone** 4:45, 7:20, 9:50 G.G. RON 1-3 ☎ 9662175 **On Deadly Ground** 5, 7:15, 9:30 ★ **Pelican Brief** 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **The Good Son** 5, 7:15, 9:30 HAZAHAV **Fearless** 4:45, 7:30, 10 ★ **In the Name of the Father** 4:45, 7:30, 10 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30

RISHON NEW IND. AREA
GAL 1-5 ☎ 9619689 **Intersection** ☐ **Malice** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Naked Gun** ☐ **My Father the Hero** 5, 7:30, 10 ★ **Bleeding Romeo** 5, 7:30, 10 STAR 1-4 ☎ 9619985-7 27 Lishinsky St. **Kika** 7:30, 10 ★ **Mrs. Doubtfire** 7:30, 10 ★ **Tombstone**, 7:30, 10 ★ **Little Buddha** 7:15, 10

UPPER NAZARETH
G.G. GIL **Remains of the Day** 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Naked Gun** ☐ **Fan Fan** ☐ **The Good Son** 5, 7:15, 9:45 ★ **Schindler's List** 5, 8:30 ★ **Tombstone** 5, 7:15, 10 ★ **Intersection** 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

TELEVISION

■ CHANNEL 1

6.30 News in Arabic **6.45** Cartoons **7.00** Good Morning Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV

8.00 Program Details **8.05** Keep Fit **8.15** Arithmetic **8.40** History of Eretz Yisrael **9.00** Judaism: Keshet v'anan **9.20** Natural Science: Let's Look Up **9.40** Pretty Butterfly **10.15** Captain Cook **11.10** A Look At Nature **11.20** Science and Technology **11.40** French – Avec plaisir **11.55** The Environment **12.20** Mathematics **12.30** Mathematics for Bagrut **13.00** Science and Technology – Biological Revolution **13.25** Computers **14.00** Stories of King Babar **14.30** The Wonder Years **15.00** Zombit

■ CHANNEL 1

15.35 Winnie the Pooh – cartoon **15.00** News update **16.20** Legends of King Solomon **16.30** The Simpsons **17.00** A New Evening **17.35** Chemistry – local drama about an Israeli girl who has difficulty in chemistry and the immigrant boy who helps her **18.00** Animation using Clay **18.15** News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18.30 The Stars of Tomorrow **19.00** News in Arabic

HEBREW PROGRAMS
19.30 Real Time – magazine on people, hobbies and trips **20.00** Mabat **21.00** Straight and To The Point **21.30** Postmortem – program on newspapers **21.40** Night Studio – social issues and current events hosted by Meni Pe'er **22.30** Film: Hell in the Pacific (1968) – Story of a Japanese naval officer in 1944 alone on a Pacific island. An American is shot down onver the island. Each one in his turn captures and tortures the other as if they are still at the front. After a while, they begin to reflect on their relationship. Starring Lee Marvin, Toshiro Mifune. (102 mins) **23.00** Late-night news **23.05** Continuation of film

■ THE NEW CHANNEL 2

14.05 Star Trek – The Next Generation **15.00** Animated series **15.30** Tin Tin – animated series **16.00** Folktales – seen from the present-day point of view **17.00** News **17.05** Doug – animated series **17.30** Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **18.00** Clips With Love – with Avri Gilad **19.00** NBA Action – weekly magazine **19.30** Kolbodek **20.00** News **20.30** Hagashash Hahiver – comedy **21.00** Live – Dan Shilon Hosts **22.30** Film: Atlantic City (1981) – A struggling casino worker becomes involved in a drug deal. A look at a city in transition. Starring Burt Lancaster, Susan Sarandon. Directed by Louis Malle. (104 mins) **23.30** News **23.35** Continuation of film

■ JORDAN TV (unofficial)

17.30 French programs **19.00** News in French **19.15** Classical music **19.30** News in Hebrew **19.45** Documentary **20.00** News in Arabic **20.30** Too Close For Comfort **21.10** Documentary **22.00** News in English **22.20** Poldark (drama)

■ MIDDLE EAST TV

14.00 The 700 Club **14.55** Film: White Commanche – A man defends his honor when he's mistaken for an outlaw. Starring William Shatner, Joseph Cotten **16.30** Mighty Mouse **17.20** Dangermouse **17.45** Superbook **18.10** Hart To Hart **19.10** Rescue 911 **20.00** World News Tonight (Arabic) **20.30** CNN Headline News **21.00** Wings **21.30** Matlock **22.20** Murder She Wrote **23.10** The 700 Club **00.00** Film: White Commanche (rpt)

Dad **11.30** Antonella **12.15** Pasquale's Kitchen **12.40** Falcon Crest **13.35** Perfect Strangers **14.05** Young Indiana Jones **15.00** Trapper John **15.50** Murder She Wrote **16.40** American Dreamer **17.05** New WKRP in Cincinnati **17.30** Love Boat **18.20** Neighbors **18.45** The Young and The Restless **19.30** Local broadcast **20.00** Antonella **20.50** Falcon Crest **21.40** Cheers **22.10** Melrose Place **22.55** Acapulco Heat **23.45** Designing Women **00.10** Quantum Leap **1.00** Hunter

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

10.30 The Sand Storm – Indian movie **12.25** Doctor in Distress (1963) – (rpt) **14.05** Master of Ballantrae (1984) – (rpt) **16.45** Forbidden Love (1982) – (rpt) **18.20** Condor (1986) – (rpt) **19.30** Girlfriend from Hell (1989) – horror comedy about a shy young girl who becomes the life of the gory party when the spirit of the devil enters her body (rpt) **21.05** The Good Fight (1992) – a lawyer decides to fight the tobacco industry after her son's best friend gets cancer **22.35** Talk Radio (1989) – (rpt) **00.25** Pacific Heights (1990) – (rpt) **2.05** Tous les Matins du Monde (1992) – (rpt)

■ CHILDREN'S CHANNEL (6)

6.30 Cartoons **9.30** Cartoons **10.05** Casper And Friends **10.30** Piggsburg Pigs **11.05** Thundercats **11.30** Punky Brewster **12.00** Macgyver **13.00** Kofiko **13.30** Cartoons **14.05** Ghostbusters **14.30** Feivel's American Tails **15.05** Thundercats **15.30** Supergran **16.00** The Bionic Woman **16.50** Flying Classroom **17.30** Cartoons **18.05** Casper and Friends **18.30** Piggsburg Pigs **19.00** Perfect Strangers **19.35** 21 Jump St.

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

20.35 The Honeymooners **21.00** Love Thy Neighbor **21.30** Written on the Wind (1956) – Oscar-wining melodrama about a secretary who marries her Texan oil tycoon boss, and finds herself the steadying force in a very rocky family. Starring Lauren Bacall, Robert Stack and Dorothy Malone. **23.10** The Avengers **00.00** Bullets or Ballots (1936) – (rpt)

■ DISCOVERY CHANNEL (8)

6.00 Open University: Social Sciences **11.00** Birds as Prey **12.00** Shadows of Sandino **13.00** Invention **13.30** Festivals of the World **14.00** Open University (repeat of morning's programs) **16.00** Birds as Prey **17.00** Shadows of Sandino **18.00** Open University (repeat of morning's programs) **20.00** Animal Traffic **21.00** New Explorer **21.30** Wild South **22.00** Submarines **23.00** Extra Dimension **23.45** Open University (repeat of morning's programs)

■ SUPER CHANNEL

7.00 Supershop **7.30** NBC Network News **8.00** ITN World News Live **8.15** European Business Today **8.30** CNBC Business Tonight Live **9.00** ITN World News **9.15** Market Wrap **9.30** NBC News **10.00** Super Shop **13.00** Today's Business Live **13.30** FT Reports **14.00** Today **14.30** FT Business Today **15.00** Today **15.30** The Money Wheel **18.30** FT Business Tonight **19.00** Today **20.00** ITN World News **20.30** Executive Lifestyles **21.00** Dateline **22.00** Supersports **23.00** ITN World News **23.30** FT Business Tonight **23.50** Market Wrap **00.00** The Tonight Show with Jay Leno **1.00** Real Personal **1.30** NBC Network News Live **2.00** Equal Time **2.30** Talkin' Jazz

■ STAR PLUS (unconfirmed)

7.30 Neighbours **8.00** Santa Barbara **9.00** The Bold and The Beautiful **9.30** Donahue **10.30** Oprah Winfrey **11.30** Today's Gourmet **12.00** Mr Rogers' Neighborhood **12.30** Grimms Fairy Tales **13.00** Force Five **13.30** Degrassi Junior High **14.00** El Extreme Close Up **14.30** Neighbors **15.00** M*A*S*H **15.30** Doogie Howser, M.D. **16.00** Anything But Love **16.30** Moonlighting **17.30** The Bold and The Beautiful **18.00** Santa Barbara **19.00** Crystal Maze **20.00** Capital City **21.00** M*A*S*H **21.30** El Features **22.00** Neighbors **22.30** Crystal Maze **23.30** Capital City **00.30** Donahue

CABLE

■ FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

8.00 Local broadcast **9.00** Attitudes **9.45** The Young and the Restless **10.30** Guests in the Living Room **11.00** Major

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6.06 Waking to Music **7.07** Rossini: Excerpt from Péchés de vieillesse; Bizet: L'Arlesienne suite; Tchaikovsky: Album pour enfants (Mustonen) **8.05** Mozart: Horn concerto in E flat (Tafelmusik); Tchaikovsky: Serenade in C for strings **9.00** Rossini: Wind quartet; Rodrigo: 4 Songs; Mozart: Fantasia in F minor K594 (Roloff, organ); Mendelssohn: Symphony no 2 "Lobgesang" **10.40** Schubert Anthology **12.15** From the World's Concert Halls – winners of Queen Elisabeth of Belgium International Violin Competition. Sibelius: Violin concerto in D minor; Lalo: Symphonie espagnole; Vieuxtemps: Concerto no 5 in A minor; Ravel: Tzigane **14.07** Musicals – Irving Berlin: Selection from Annie Get Your Gun; Lerner and Loewe: Selection from My Fair Lady; Andrew Lloyd Webber: Selection from Cats, Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Jesus Christ Superstar and Requiem **16.00** Guest program **18.00** Keys **19.05** Theme and Variations – Works by Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Tchaikovsky **20.03** From Our Concert Halls – recordings of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra: SA. Penderecki: Polish Requiem (cond. Penderecki, with Warsaw Philharmonic Choir) ±21.50 Bracha Eden and Alexander Tamir with Ashdod Chamber Orchestra cond. Shimon Cohen – Vivaldi-Tamir: Concerto for piano 4 hands and strings; Czerny: Pastoral Sonata for piano 4 hands and strings (arr Cohen); Schumann: Ball-Scenen for piano 4 hands, Bilder aus Osten for piano 4 hands **23.00** Domino

■ RADIO 1

6.16 Mishna, Gemara and Tora **7.00** News in English **7.15** News in French **7.30** Hebrew songs **8.05** Dial **9.05** It's Open **10.05** Teleradio **11.05** Finger on the Pulse **12.05** Industry **13.00** News and program in English **13.30** News and program in French **14.05** Youth programs **15.30** Ethnic music **16.05** Musical quiz **17.00** News in English **17.02** News in French **17.05** Yiddish songs **18.05** Religious programs **20.00** Evening news **20.50** Judaism **22.05** Jerusalem magazine **23.05** Words that Try to Touch

■ RADIO 2

6.06 This Morning – news magazine **8.05** Another Matter **9.05** Popular songs **10.05** It's All Talk **12.05** Midday – news, commentary, music **14.05** Magic Moments **15.05** Foreign Affairs **15.45** Foreign Press **16.05** The Color of Money **17.05** Five After the News **18.05** Today – newsreel **19.05** The Arabs of Israel **20.05** Sports broadcast **21.05** News headlines **21.15** Sports broadcast, continued **23.05** Night Flight **00.05** Midnight Magazine **00.30** Night Flight, continued **1.05** Into the Night **5.05** First Light

■ RADIO 3

Music all day and night

■ REKA

18.00 News in English **18.15** News in French **20.00** News in Russian

■ ARMY RADIO

5.02 Good Morning IDF **6.00** Good Morning Israel **9.05** It's Difficult in the Morning **10.05** Wafers **10.49** Today's entertainment **11.05** Right Now **13.00** Midday News **13.15** Something for Midday **14.05** Rock magazine **15.05** Someone to Talk To **16.00** An Hour Before **17.00** Good Evening Israel **18.05** Over the Horizon **18.45** Army and security **19.05** Music **20.00** Evening news **20.30** Live basketball broadcast **23.05** This Was the Day **00.10** Night Birds **2.00** We Don't Want to Sleep

■ ARMY ON WHEELS

7.05 The State on the Way **9.05** Nine in the Square **11.05** Sun **13.05** Air Conditioning **14.05** Battery **15.05** Program with Dubi Lentz **16.05** Driving Wisely **18.05** Program with Lea Oz **20.05** Drive In **22.05** Good Night

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 React with amazement and shoot the sequence twice (2,1,6,4)
7 Persevere, but get small credit (5)
8 Cheap clothing acquires a little bird—fair exchange (3,3,3)
9 Where gangsters had to be smart in the past (7)
10 One who carries increasingly little weight (7)
11 Revise part of the score Mendelssohn wrote (5)
12 No goals scored in a happy marriage (4-5)
14 Punch-drunk, but quite unconcerned (4-5)
17 Female to complain bitterly if lacking strength (5)
19 Beat down a

Meshulam arrested, one killed in Yehud siege

RAINE MARCUS

THE town of Yehud was turned into a war zone early yesterday morning as nearly 1,000 policemen surrounded the "fortress" of Uzi Meshulam and his followers. Meshulam himself had been tricked out of the house and arrested.

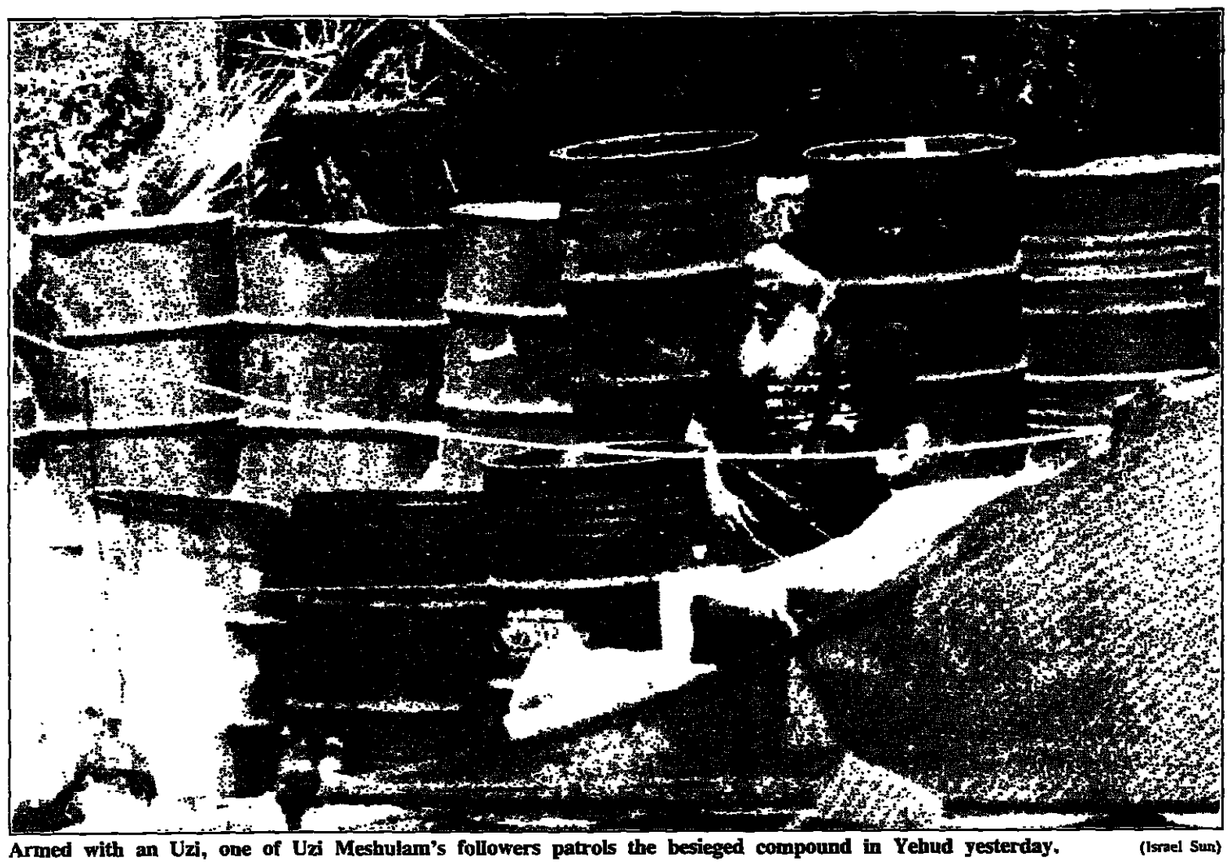
Following a six-week effort to get Meshulam and some 100 armed supporters out of the house, police mounted a massive operation which led to a shoot-out, in which one of Meshulam's supporters was killed.

After numerous delays, Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz gave the go-ahead for the operation on Monday night.

Meshulam's follower was shot dead when he opened fire on a police helicopter circling over the house and at police standing nearby. An anti-terror squad sharpshooter shot the man from a neighboring rooftop. A woman supporter was lightly wounded.

Meshulam himself was arrested two hours before the shoot-out, after he fell into a trap laid by the police. At 2:15 a.m., Hefetz, who has been criticized for conducting a regular dialogue with Meshulam, invited him to a meeting at the nearby Avia Hotel to discuss the affair.

When Meshulam, accompanied by eight armed guards, arrived at the hotel, he was immediately arrested by police.



Armed with an Uzi, one of Uzi Meshulam's followers patrols the besieged compound in Yehud yesterday. (Israel Sun)

Meanwhile, a few kilometers down the road at Ben-Gurion Airport, a massive force made up of elite police units was undergoing a briefing. Bus loads of police were also standing by as reinforcements.

At 4:15 a.m., police began to trickle into Yehud. Undercover detectives in old battered cars and new trucks patrolled the area, trying not to draw attention. Ambulances and fire engines also arrived in the quiet neighborhood.

Suddenly, scores of vehicles moved in from all directions, and hundreds of heavily armed police poured out, carrying ramps, electric generators, tables, and other equipment. Three armored IDF bulldozers were also positioned in the street.

The police began to disperse into their various units according to a carefully planned strategy. Dozens of sharpshooters were stationed on the rooftops, and other units hid in doorways. A squad, which was to back up the anti-terror unit that was to initially storm the house, crouched on the ground behind an apartment block.

As soon as police aimed floodlights at the besieged building, Meshulam's supporters, unaware of their leader's arrest, opened fire with an assortment of weapons, including Uzis and M-16s.

As the sound of the gunfire increased, residents who had woken up and were peering through their windows were ordered back by police using bullhorns. A tape broadcast from a loudspeaker advised Meshulam's followers to "make a courageous move and turn themselves in, as Meshulam had done."

A few minutes later, an Israel Radio reporter broadcast that Meshulam had already been captured.

One man who tried to escape from the house was caught by police and hauled away.

Meanwhile, 200 additional policemen arrested 50 of Meshulam's other followers, including his spokeswoman, Ora Shifris, at their homes.

After some 20 minutes of shooting, mostly by Meshulam's supporters, police again appealed to those still in the house to surrender.

"If you surrender your weapons and walk over to the old age home, nothing bad will happen to you," blasted a recording.

But some 30 followers, including women and children, refused to surrender without orders from Meshulam. He refused to comply with police requests to urge his followers to surrender, and police decided to stop firing, to avoid further bloodshed.

For several hours, a police negotiating team tried in vain to persuade the besieged followers to surrender.

In an interview recorded by Army Radio, one of the building's occupants said that police were trying to murder them and invited people to come and see for themselves "that the police had come to murder Jews."

After a month of meticulous planning, the police had apparently expected the raid to be over reasonably quickly, and were not prepared for another prolonged siege.

Yehud operation gets mixed reactions from local residents

RAINE MARCUS

YEHUD residents who had complained bitterly about what some described as Uzi Meshulam's "reign of terror" had mixed feelings about yesterday's raid.

One who agreed to be interviewed, Yossi Weisfogel, lives in a third-story apartment within Meshulam's line of fire. He was awakened by gunshots at around 4:20 a.m.

"As soon as I heard the shots, I instinctively knew it was the police raiding the house," said Weisfogel. "My wife and I grabbed our kids, aged two and six months, and crawled across the floor looking for shelter. The situation reminded me of a battlefield."

Weisfogel's window overlooks Meshulam's house. "Then I heard shots from our rooftop, only one floor above us. We could have been killed," he said, referring to shots fired by police sharpshooters.

Weisfogel criticized the police for not informing residents in advance of the operation and evacuating them. But a police officer said, "If we had told one resident, the whole neighborhood would have known."

Noise made by Meshulam and his supporters over the past six weeks disturbed them greatly, residents said.

"Singing through loudspeakers, weddings, the constant noise of carloads of followers, and loud music drove us crazy. The police had to do something, so long as there were no casualties. These people are Jews and not Arabs," said Weisfogel.

Throughout the morning, police cordoned off the whole neighborhood. Reporters and police crossing open spaces were ordered to crouch down to avoid possible gunshots.

Residents were prevented from leaving their homes to go to school or work.

An elderly man riding a bicycle across a nearby park was astonished when five policemen jumped on him to guard him from possible gunfire. Two couples who police recognized as Meshulam followers were arrested as they tried to enter the area. One man was identified as the same person seen wielding an M-16 rifle and a hatchet when the standoff began.

Banker Ernst Japhet refuses to testify, verdict tomorrow

EVELYN GORDON

IT would be a grave injustice to convict former Bank Leumi chairman Ernst Japhet of banking crimes, when the state knew and approved of what he was doing, Japhet's attorney argued at his trial yesterday.

Since Japhet declined to testify and almost no new evidence was presented, yesterday's session was both the first and last day of testimony. Jerusalem District Court Judge Miriam Naor said she will give her verdict tomorrow.

Japhet is being charged with violating his duties as a bank manager, aggravated fraud, securities fraud, misleading customers and falsifying documents, on account of the stock manipulation which caused the bank shares collapse of 1983. The resultant bailout cost the state some $7 billion.

Other senior bankers connected with the collapse were convicted in February, but Japhet is being tried separately because he fled the country before the original trial began. If convicted, he is likely to be sentenced to at least eight months in prison and a NIS 600,000 fine – the same sentence given to Mordechai Einhorn, who was the No. 2 man in Bank Leumi at the time.

At yesterday's hearing, both Ya'acov Cohen, representing the state, and Yigal Arnon, representing Japhet, said they wanted Japhet's trial to be as much as possible like that of the other bankers. For this reason, they agreed to consider all evidence presented in the original trial as if it was part of this trial as well, and, for the most part, to refrain from presenting new evidence. This included a decision by Japhet not to take the stand.

The only new evidence submitted by either side was two statements made by Japhet to investigators in 1986, submitted by the prosecution.

Naor noted that one item in these statements appeared to be a confession by Japhet of something Einhorn and Leumi had denied in the earlier trial – that Leumi and Discount were each holding $50 million worth of each other's shares. In the statement, Japhet had said the total value of Leumi's holdings was some $360m. – whereas, if the alleged Discount holdings were not included, the figure should have been around $300m.

Naor also asked why the indictment against Japhet contained no charges of conspiracy, as had appeared in the original bank shares indictment. Cohen explained that since these charges were dropped from the first indictment, they were also omitted from Japhet's indictment.

Medications running short as public sector pharmacists continue strike

JUDY SIEGEL

MEDICATIONS are beginning to run short in the public hospitals, causing the postponement of some non-emergency operations, as the strike by 1,200 public-sector pharmacists enters its fourth day. Their union said last night that the Treasury had not scheduled any additional meetings.

The union said that identical wage figures fed into the Treasury computer in Jerusalem produced "completely different figures" from those that emerged from the Histadrut's computer in Tel Aviv. Negotiations Monday night broke down, as the two sides argued which were correct.

The Finance Ministry spokesman declined to comment, except to say that "we don't negotiate while workers are striking."

The union's appeals committee, which fielded questions from duty pharmacists handling hospital emergencies, was overloaded with queries.

"We automatically approve the supply of medications for life-and-death situations. But on others – which involve non-emergency humanitarian cases in which families are forced to run to a private pharmacy to buy a drug – we consider the pleas," a union spokesman said.

The pharmacists are asking for a 40 percent raise, similar to that already won by other sectors in the health field, but the Treasury is unwilling to grant more than 30 percent, the union said. No comment was available from the Health Ministry.

Kupat Holim Clalit is continuing to allow its members to fill prescriptions at all private pharmacies, if they purchase stamps in health fund offices, or if they pay NIS 4 for a "regular item" and NIS 8 for antibiotics.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Treasury, social workers talks fail again

Unofficial meetings between the Treasury and the Association of Social Workers "blew up" yesterday, according to the union.

Eli Ben-Gera, head of the union, said that Finance Minister Avraham Shohat has no interest in seeing the strike end. Ben-Gera said the walkout by the union's 9,000 members would continue and include stronger steps than those already taken.

As of today, the social workers' strike is three weeks old.

Ramle man stabbed to death

Ibrahim Abu Laban, 20, of Ramle was stabbed to death yesterday morning in the town; his cousin, Mohammed Abu Laban, 24, was also stabbed and seriously wounded. Police believe the stabbings were criminally motivated.

The stabbings occurred at 2:40 a.m. and a car was seen speeding from the scene of the crime. The two men were taken to Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin, where Ibrahim Abu Laban died there of his wounds. *Itim*

Man indicted for stabbing at Haifa pub

The Haifa District Attorney's Office yesterday issued an indictment against a Kiryat Haim man who allegedly stabbed the bouncer at a pub in Haifa's Alcohol Valley.

Yosef Gabai, 21, allegedly stabbed Albert Zizov, 21, during a fight. According to the indictment, Zizov punched Gabai in the face; Gabai responded by stabbing Zizov in his right eye with a broken bottle. Zizov, who underwent surgery for his wounds, will probably not regain sight in the eye.

Gabai's trial will begin in a few days. *Yigal Kotzer*

Four years for tax fraud

A Ra'anana businessman convicted of tax fraud was sentenced to four years in prison and fined NIS 50,000 by the Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday.

Yonatan Silverman, director of Y.Y. Silverman, which deals in gold and diamonds, falsified NIS 41 million worth of tax receipts.

The fraud occurred following his purchase of $1.5m. worth of gold on credit from David Wolken. When Silverman could not pay his debt, Wolken suggested he give him fraudulent receipts, so that he could submit them to the tax authorities and thus recoup his money in tax savings. *Itim*

Court petition charges ministry with bias

EVELYN GORDON

THE Housing Ministry's refusal to sell an apartment to a single person is unjust discrimination on the basis of marital status, a petition to the High Court of Justice charged yesterday.

Charlie Elbaz, 30, of Sderot, who currently lives with his parents, tried to buy an apartment in the town from the state-owned Shikun U'fituach housing company. However, the company said he could not buy in that project because he is single – despite the fact that he had a Housing Ministry certificate stating that, as an army veteran with no home of his own, he is eligible for ministry assistance in all parts of the country.

When Elbaz pressed the matter, the company said its orders from the ministry are to reserve these apartments for homeless families.

The ministry, the petition continued, then told him that it has frozen all apartment sales to singles, because it needs state-owned housing for families being removed from caravan sites.

Elbaz and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel petitioned the High Court, asking that this policy be overturned. The petition also requested an interim injunction to prevent the sale of any apartments in the project before the case is heard.

'Laniado Hospital on verge of financial collapse'

JUDY SIEGEL

NETANYA'S Laniado Hospital is on the "verge of financial collapse," its director-general, Dr. Gershon Lieder, warned yesterday. He attributed the crisis to the additional NIS 1 million in wages the hospital must pay following increases approved by the government.

The voluntary hospital is the second-largest employer in the city and its only general hospital. Laniado's 800 employees have not yet received their April salaries, and dozens of contractors who supply services have not been paid for six months.

"We have a catastrophe on our hands, and there is nowhere to turn," Lieder said.

Health Ministry director-general Prof. Mordechai Shani said that his office had not received any requests for financial help from the hospital; if it did, it would consider them, he said.

In January, Shani said, nurses throughout the country received a 50 percent wage increase; in a different wage dispute, hospital clerks and maintenance workers got a 26% hike. In November, the financially-strapped Netanya Municipality stopped giving NIS 500,000 in monthly support to the hospital. Moreover, the various health funds owe Laniado NIS 10 million for hospitalization of their members.

As a result, Laniado has an operating deficit NIS 3 million deficit.

Unlike most of the other public hospitals in the country, Laniado gets is neither owned or subsidized by the government or Kupat Holim Clalit. "We have no daddy in the government, but we are father to the 250,000 residents of Netanya," said Lieder.

The commercial banks cut credit to the hospital after the Netanya Municipality halted its aid.

Clergyman sues two others for slander

YIGAL KOTZER

THE Rev. Munir Kakish, of Ramallah, a minister in the Minnesota-based Community of Shem, yesterday filed a NIS 600,000 slander suit in Haifa District Court against the head of the church in Haifa, the Rev. Ross Dyars, and his deputy, the Rev. Edward Tanous.

In his complaint, Kakish claims the two defamed his good name and prevented him from being promoted in the church by saying that he was having an affair with the wife of a prominent church member.

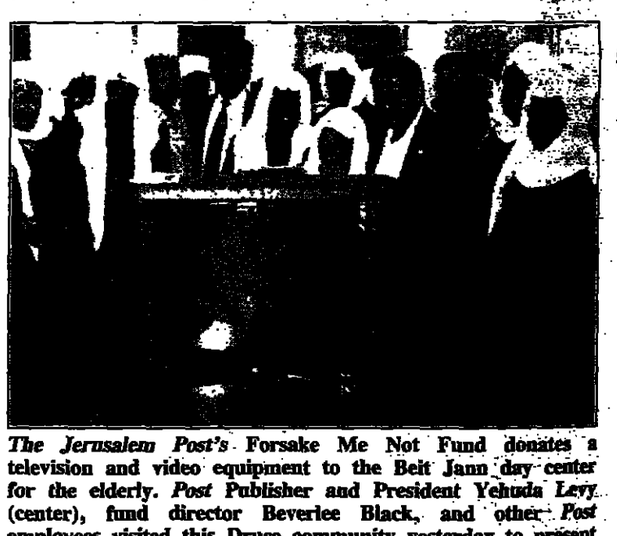
He said that Tanous had refused to admit his children to the school he heads, saying their father is an adulterer.

Kakish also said anonymous letters had been sent to the church authorities in Minnesota, seeking to have him removed from his post.

Kakish urged the court to hold an immediate hearing so it could hear the testimony of of his alleged paramour, who lives in Germany, and is here for a visit.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, nine of hearts, eight of diamonds and seven of clubs.



The Jerusalem Post's Forsake Me Not Fund donates a television and video equipment to the Beit Jann day center for the elderly. *Post* Publisher and President Yehuda Levy (center), fund director Beverlee Black, and other *Post* employees visited this Druse community yesterday to present the gift. (Ya'acov Diament)

Forsake Me Not Fund donates TV, video equipment to Druse day center for elderly

DAVID RUDGE

BEIT Jann local council officials, public figures and village dignitaries paid tribute to *The Jerusalem Post* and its Forsake Me Not Fund yesterday for the donation of a television set and video equipment to a day center for the elderly in the village.

"This is a holiday for us," Nabil Kabalan, head of the village's welfare division, said during the presentation ceremony yesterday.

"*The Jerusalem Post* has earned a warm place in the hearts of residents and in the Druse community in general," he said.

Post president and publisher Yehuda Levy said the donation helped demonstrate the fact that the Druse are an integral part of Israeli society.

"Somebody like myself, who was in the IDF for many years, knows only too well the contribution of Druse to the army and Israel's security and there is no better example than Beit Jann. We are proud to be here," he said.

Beit Jann, on the upper slopes of Mount Meron in the Galilee, has lost a higher percentage of its sons in Israel's wars and skirmishes than virtually any other community in the country.

Forty-six men from the village, which has a total population of around 8,000, have fallen in the line of duty.

Despite such relatively heavy losses, work was only recently completed on the establishment of a military cemetery for Beit Jann's fallen, and the village still does not have a Yad Lebanim memorial for its fallen, although approval for such a project has now been given.

Nevertheless, local council head Yusef Kabalan is more concerned with the paucity of facilities for residents, young and old, and on improving municipal services, as well as sewage, road and water networks.

It was for these reasons, said Kabalan, that he warmly welcomed the decision of the *Post* to donate equipment to the day center for the elderly.

The center, run by the local council with the assistance of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, was opened a year ago to provide social activities for the more than 300 elderly people in the village.

The center is currently housed in rented accommodation, but the ministry has given approval for the construction of a new complex. The construction work is to be financed by Mifal Hapayis.

Kabalan said Minister Ora Namir had also pledged to help establish a children's day-care center and other welfare facilities.

בס"ד

FEDERATION OF PORAT YOSEPH YESHIVOT IN ISRAEL

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dedicated trustee

Adv. SHLOMO TOUSSIA-COHEN ז"ל

We extend our deepest condolences to his wife and children and all the family, on their loss of their distinguished head of the family, and noblest among men.

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